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TOWN REPORT,

WESTMINSTER, MASS.

1897-1898.



ANNUAL REPORTS

—OF THE—

Officers of the Town

—OF—

WESTMINSTER

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEB. 10, 1898.

GARDNER, MASS.:
PRINTED BY THE GARDNER NEWS CO.,
1898.

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TOWN WARRANT.

WORCESTER, S.S.

*To Either of the Constables of the Town of Westminster in the
County aforesaid,*

GREETING :

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Westminster, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall, in said Westminster, on Monday, the seventh day of March, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles :

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ART. 2. To choose all necessary Town officers for the ensuing year ; also to vote by ballot, "Yes" or "No," on the question, "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town ?"

ART. 3. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the support of schools, repairs of roads and bridges, public charities, payment of debt, miscellaneous and contingent expenses, and appropriate the same.

ART. 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of taxes as may be necessary for the year ensuing.

ART. 5. To see what compensation the Town will allow the Collector of Taxes the ensuing year, or act relative thereto.

ART. 6. To see if the Town will accept the list of Jurors as revised by the Selectmen, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 7. To choose all necessary Committees for the ensuing year.

ART. 8. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, or any Committee, to contract with the State Highway Com-

mission for the building of any section of State highway that may be acquired the ensuing year, or act relative thereto.

ART. 9. To see if the Town will appropriate any sum of money to Post 69, G. A. R., to assist them in the observance of Memorial Day, and care of grounds around the monument, or act thereon.

ART. 10. To see if the Town will choose an agent or agents to prosecute and defend all suits in behalf of the Town, or act thereon.

ART. 11. To see if the Town will appropriate any sum of money for care of the cemeteries, or act relative thereto.

ART. 12. To see what compensation the Town will allow the enginemen, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 13. To see if the Town will empower the Collector of Taxes to use all means for collecting taxes, which a Town Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

ART. 14. To see if the Town will appropriate any sum of money for care of the clock on the Baptist church, or act thereon.

ART. 15. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to sell the Town Farm or any portion thereof, and convey the same by deed, or act relative thereto.

ART. 16. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to sell and convey by deed the Wheeler place, so called, situated on Main street in Westminster, or act relative thereto.

ART. 17. To see if the Town will allow the Westminster Aqueduct Company any sum of money in compensation for maintaining a public watering trough, and supplying the cistern, located on Main street, with water for fire purposes during the year of 1898, or act relative thereto.

ART. 18. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for the enforcement of the liquor law, or act relative thereto.

ART. 19. To hear the report of any committee chosen by the town, or act thereon.

ART. 20. To see if the Town will vote to accept the road as laid out by the Selectmen, near the residence of M. D. Whitney, record of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or act relative thereto.

ART. 21. To see if the Town will vote to purchase a strip of land on the west side of Centre school building, appropriate money for the same, or act relative thereto.

ART. 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any sum of money for the purpose of lighting the streets in the centre village of the town, or act relative thereto.

ART. 23. To see if the Town will instruct the Selectmen to petition the County Commissioners to relocate the Fitchburg road from Main street to a point below Elliot street near the watering tub, the new location to be used in the event that the State highway is extended to Main street, or act relative thereto.

ART. 24. To see if the Town will revoke the acceptance of the provisions of Chapter 27, Sections 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68, Public Statutes, as amended by the Acts of 1893, Chapter 417, Sections 267 to 270, relative to the election of Selectmen and Assessors for the term of three years, or act in relation thereto.

And you are directed to serve this warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the Public Meeting Houses in said town, fourteen days, at least, before the time for holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at time and place of meeting as aforesaid. Given under our hands this seventeenth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

S. D. SIMONDS,	}	<i>Selectmen of Westminster.</i>
A. J. BOLTON,		
E. H. MERRIAM.		

A true copy. ATTEST:

Constable of Westminster.

Town Clerk's Report.

For the Year Ending December 31, 1897.

There were four town meetings held during the year 1897.

(In the following reports of town meetings, it is a synopsis from the records of each meeting.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.

Held March 1st, 1897.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

S. D. Simonds was chosen Moderator.

Art. 2. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year; also to vote by ballot "Yes" or "No" on the question, "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

The following is a list of town officers chosen, together with those whose term of office has not expired:

Town Clerk.

CHARLES F. GILES.

Treasurer.

FRANK W. FENNO.

Selectmen.

ELI H. MERRIAM was chosen for three years.

A. J. BOLTON, term expires March, 1899.

S. D. SIMONDS, term expires March, 1898.

Overseers of the Poor.

HOBART RAYMOND. FRANK W. DERBY.
HENRY J. PARTRIDGE.

Assessors.

LOUIE S. MILLER was chosen for three years.
W. H. CARTER, term expires March, 1899.
T. S. WOOD, term expires March, 1898.

School Committee.

EDWARD C. DAMON was chosen for three years.
MRS. K. A. DELVA, term expires March, 1899.
FRANK A. MERRIAM was chosen for one year.

Constables.

W. W. STERLIN. FRANK N. CARPENTER
GEORGE E. SMITH. T. S. WOOD.

Tax Collector.

LOUIE S. MILLER.

Auditors.

D. C. MILES. G. W. BRUCE.

Cemetery Commissioners.

AMOS B. HOLDEN was chosen for three years.
HARVEY L. PIERCE, term expires March, 1899.
HOBART RAYMOND, term expires March, 1898.

Library Trustees.

HOBART RAYMOND, chosen for three years.
MRS. H. L. BRUCE, chosen for three years.
MRS. S. C. WARNER, term expires March, 1899.
MRS. A. R. HAGER, term expires March, 1899.
MISS A. S. BROWN, term expires March, 1898.
A. J. BOLTON, term expires March, 1898.

Fence Viewers,

E. H. MERRIAM. A. E. HURD.
T. S. EATON.

Field Driver.

*WILL J. GOODRIDGE.

Surveyors of Wood, Lumber, and Bark.

F. W. DERBY. J. C. GOODRIDGE. J. A. BAKER.
H. N. DERBY. *H. E. SPAULDING. *WM. BLACK.
*S. H. SPRAGUE. *A. E. GATES. FRANK PAGE.
T. S. WOOD. JOHN MINOTT. GEORGE DIVOLL.
*M. H. WARNER.

License Question.

The result on the license question was: Yes, six (6); No, fifty-six (56).

Art. 3. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the support of schools, repairs of roads and bridges, public charities, payment of debt and contingent expenses, and appropriate the same.

Voted to raise and appropriate for:

School purposes,	\$3,500
Highway department,	2,000
Public charities,	1,100
Town officers,	500
Fire department,	500
Payment of debt and contingent expenses,	800
Indigent soldiers,	50

For other appropriations, see articles 9, 11, 14, 18 and 19.

Art. 4. To see if the town will authorize its Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of taxes, as may be necessary the ensuing year.

Voted to grant the Treasurer leave to borrow as provided in the Article.

Art. 5. To see what compensation the town will allow the Collector of Taxes the ensuing year, or act relative thereto.

Voted that the Collector of Taxes be allowed seventy-five cents per \$100 for collecting, and that the taxes be collected subject to the following conditions:

All taxes, except on polls, paid on or before October 1, 1897, shall receive a discount of 6 per cent.

Officers elected having this sign () prefixed to their names did not qualify.

All paid between October 1, 1897, and January 1, 1898, shall pay 6 per cent. per annum additional.

All taxes not paid on January 1, 1898, shall be put into the hands of the Constable for collection.

Art. 6. To see if the town will accept the list of jurors as revised by the Selectmen, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to accept the list as revised.

Art. 7. To choose all necessary committees for the year ensuing.

Voted that the Selectmen constitute a committee to look up the matter of enlarging the Library Room, and to report at next town meeting.

Voted that S. D. Simonds, E. H. Merriam and T. S. Wood serve as a committee to induce business to locate in the town.

Art. 8. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen, or any committee to contract with the State Highway Commission for the building of any section of State highway that may be acquired the ensuing year, or act relative thereto.

Voted to authorize the Selectmen to contract.

Art. 9. To see if the town will appropriate any sum of money to Post 69, G. A. R., to assist them in the observance of Memorial Day, and care of grounds around the monument, or act thereon.

Voted to appropriate \$55 (fifty-five dollars).

Art. 10. To see if the town will choose an agent or agents to prosecute all suits in behalf of the town, or act thereon.

Voted that the Selectmen act as such agents.

Art. 11. To see if the town will appropriate any sum of money for the care of the cemeteries, or act relative thereto.

Voted to appropriate \$75 (seventy-five dollars).

Art. 12. To see what compensation the town will allow the engine men, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to allow them \$5 (five dollars) apiece per year, and twenty cents per hour extra for brush fires.

Art. 13. To see if the town will empower the Collector of Taxes to use all means for collecting taxes, which a Town Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

Voted that the Collector of Taxes be so empowered.

Art. 14. To see if the town will appropriate any sum of money for the care of the clock on the Baptist Church, or act thereon.

Voted to appropriate \$20 (twenty dollars).

Art. 15. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to sell the Town Farm, or any portion thereof, and convey the same by deed, or act relative thereto.

Voted to pass over this article.

Art. 16. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to sell and convey by deed the Wheeler place, so called, situated on Main street, in Westminster, or act relative thereto.

Voted that the Selectmen be so authorized.

Art. 17. To see if the town will allow the Westminster Aqueduct Company any sum of money in compensation for maintaining a public water trough and supplying the cistern, located on Main street, with water for fire purposes during the year 1896, or act relative thereto.

Voted to refer the matter to the Selectmen.

Art. 18. To see if the town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for the enforcement of the liquor law, or act relative thereto.

Voted to raise and appropriate \$100 (one hundred dollars.)

Art. 19. To see if the town will raise and appropriate any sum of money toward the purchase of a piano for use in District No. 1 schoolhouse, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to raise and appropriate \$100 (one hundred dollars.)

Art. 20. To see if the town will vote to enlarge the Library Room by adding about ten feet of the Dining Room, and appropriate for the expense of same, or act relative thereto.

Voted to refer to the Selectmen.

Art. 21. To see if the town will vote to take any action in relation to electric street railway.

Voted (as an expression of the people) "that the Selectmen be instructed to adhere to the franchise already given to the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street R. R. Company."

Art. 22. To see if the town will vote to appropriate any sum of money for the purpose of lighting the streets in the Centre village of the town, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to refer to the Selectmen.

Art. 23. To see if the town will vote to have copies of the Valuation and Taxes printed, to be distributed with the tax bills, or act thereon.

Voted to pass over.

All the articles in the Warrant having been acted upon it was voted to dissolve the meeting.

CHARLES F. GILES, Town Clerk.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

Held April 14, 1897.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator.

Augustine Whitney was chosen.

Art. 2. To see if the town will vote to instruct the Board of Selectmen to relocate by franchise the route for an electric street railway over any course other than the state highway as now granted, or to act relative thereto.

It was voted to dissolve the meeting while a motion under this article was pending, therefore no action was taken upon this article.

Art. 3. To hear the report of the committee on electric street railway and act thereon.

Chairman of Selectmen reported, and it was voted to accept the report.

Art. 4. To see if the town will choose any committee or act relative to the same.

This article was not taken up. No action taken.

Art. 5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate any sum of money to pay for a teacher of vocal music in the public schools, or act relative thereto.

Voted to raise and appropriate \$100 (one hundred dollars).

Voted to dissolve the meeting.

CHARLES F. GILES, Town Clerk.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

Held June 5th, 1897.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator.

Amos B. Holden was chosen.

Art. 2. To see if the town will rescind the vote passed at a previous town meeting, whereby the Selectmen were instructed to adhere to the franchise for an electric street railway as now granted by the route of state highway, or act relative thereto.

Voted to rescind. The result, which was ascertained by a division of the house, was 68 to rescind, to 66 negative.

Art. 3. To see if the town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to grant a franchise for an electric street railway to the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Street Railway Company over any

route, other than by the state highway, as now granted, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to lay on the table.

Voted to adjourn.

CHARLES F. GILES, Town Clerk.

STATE ELECTION, AND MEETING FOR TOWN BUSINESS.

Held November 2d, 1897.

Proceedings of meeting for transaction of town business.

Article 1. To choose a Moderator.

Chose Joseph Hager.

Art. 2. To see if the town will vote to continue support of indoor poor with the Holden Poor-Farm Association, or with some new association, or act anything relative thereto.

Voted to refer to the Overseers of the Poor.

Art. 3. To see if the Town of Westminster will vote that the offer made to said town by the Gardner, Westminster and Fitchburg Railroad Company, to speedily construct and finish an electric railway by the Narrows route from Gardner to Fitchburg and give bonds for the proper construction of the same, ought to be accepted, and a franchise given to said company; or act in any way relative thereto.

Voted, "that the town approve of the offer," as stated in the article.

Voted to dissolve the meeting for town business.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE ELECTION.

The polls were open from 9.45 A. M. until 4.10 o'clock P. M. The following is a partial list of persons voted for, and the number of votes given for each:—

GOVERNOR.

John Bascom, Prohibition, four votes,	4
Thomas C. Brophy, Socialist Labor, none,	0
William Everett, Democratic National, six,	6

George Fred Williams, Democratic, five,	5
Roger Wolcott, Republican, one hundred thirty-four,	134
Blanks,	12
Total number of ballots cast,	152

SENATOR—Third Worcester District.

Harding R. Barber, Rep., one hundred thirty,	130
Charles M. Day, Dem., ten,	10
Blanks,	12
Total,	152

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT—Third Worcester District.

Austin F. Adams, of Barre, Rep., one hundred twenty-nine,	129
Scattering, one,	1
Blanks,	22
Total,	152

COUNTY COMMISSIONER—Worcester.

Emerson Stone, Rep., one hundred twenty-seven,	127
Lorin B. Walker, Dem., eleven,	11
Blanks,	14
	152

At 6 o'clock P. M. voted to adjourn.

CHARLES F. GILES, Town Clerk.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

For the Year Ending December 31, 1897.

Births recorded, twenty-nine,	29
Deaths recorded, twenty-nine,	29

Marriages recorded, five,	5
Brought into town for burial, twelve,	12

Note.—If any errors in names or dates are noticed, or any omissions, please inform the Town Clerk. Three still-births (which are recorded as both births and deaths in town books) and one illegitimate birth, are not published in this report.

BIRTHS.

Date of Birth.	Name of Child.	Name of Father.
Jan. 15.	Dorothy Raymond,	Alton Battles.
Jan. 24.	(Son).	Elbert M. Hartwell.
Feb. 14.	Louise May,	John Glendenning.
March 28.	Lawrence William,	Michael Buckley.
March 30.	Rhoda Ernia,	Clarence S. Viner.
April 22.	Cora Clarina,	Philip Paradise.
May 2.	Grace Gertrude,	Jonathan H. Strang.
May 22.	Clarence Luther,	Charles M. Miller.
June 11.	Chester Noyes,	Lucius A. Baker.
June 24.	Catherine Julianne,	Judson Foster.
June 27.	Ida Adelia,	Nathaniel Eaton.
July 11.	Ellen Agnes,	James T. Cosgrave.
Aug. 7.	Herbert Roland,	Daniel J. Burns.
Aug. 12.	Ruth Margaret,	George M. Donaldson.
Aug. 26.	Eva Lena,	Napoleon Lafarrier.
Sept. 17.	Stella Sophia,	George W. Fisher.
Sept. 18.	Laurence Clayton,	Munroe W. Towle.
Oct. 5.	Adelaide Fanny,	Joseph M. Whitney.
Nov. 9.	Mary Melvina,	John M. Bean.
Nov. 12.	Mary,	John Hoover.
Nov. 14.	Ethel Maria,	Marshall W. Corbett.
Nov. 15.	Walter Alvin,	Alvin T. Booth.
Nov. 16.	Robert Milton,	Milton E. Carter.
Nov. 18.	Vera Dell,	Elwin D. Austin.
Dec. 25.	Gerald Holden,	Louie S. Miller.

DEATHS.

Jan.	1,	Henry Lucas,	79	10	14
Jan.	5,	Susan Derby,	80	9	2
Jan.	8,	Samuel L. Bridge,	80	1	23
Jan.	13,	Charles Upton,	75	2	9
Jan.	26,	(Infant) Hartwell,			2
Feb.	9,	Joshua T. Everett,	91	1	3

Feb.	18,	Henry M. Wetherbee,	57	5	29
Feb.	18,	Betsey Howard,	95		13
Feb.	22,	Joseph Hackett,	78		20
Feb.	24,	Mary Howard,	67		9
Feb.	24,	Eliza Jane Monroe,	77	10	
March	22,	Jeremiah Greenwood,	64	7	2
March	25,	Jerry Gorden,	38	7	11
March	30,	Betsey E. M. Holden,	77	6	4
April	1,	John F. Parcher,	75	6	4
April	4,	Victor Matson,	32		
April	26,	Ann Quigley,	47		
May	2,	Albert Merriam,	83	4	14
May	10,	Sidney A. Sawin,	40	5	24
July	4,	Handel Winship,	85	9	25
Aug.	27,	Ellen A. Pike,	59		
Sept.	6,	Eleanor Eaton,	87	4	27
Oct.	7,	Sylvanus Kendall,	23	4	22
Oct.	15,	Ruth Barron,			28
Oct.	22,	Ethel Belle Twomley,		7	25
Dec.	15,	Harriet E. Kendall,	62	6	27

BROUGHT INTO TOWN FOR INTERMENT.

Feb.	18,	Newell A. Merriam,	70	3	18	Worcester.
March	17,	Lucinda Burpee,	74	10	17	Leominster.
April	12,	Sophronia Stickney,	88	11	24	Leominster.
June	16,	Alma A. Foskett,	40			Somerville.
July	20,	Lewis P. Gage,	42	8	25	Sterling.
July	23,	Irving E. Platts,	52	4	19	Ashburnham
Sept.	6,	Eleanor Eaton,	87	4	27	Gardner.
Sept.	25,	George M. Ray,			16	Gardner.
Oct.	24,	Benjamin F. Battles,	80	7	3	Leominster.
Nov.	7,	Eldora J. Whitney,	41	7	29	Fitchburg.
Nov.	22,	Wilder Merriam,	57			Gardner.
Feb.,	1856,	(Infant) Merriam,				Gardner.

MARRIAGES.

Jan.	30,	C. Elwin Page, Mary Kronman,	Westminster. Westminster.
April	28,	Oswald M. Herald, Minnie H. Vieneg,	Templeton. Westminster.

June 8,	Henry L. Finney, Emma F. Boardman,	Westminster. Westminster.
Sept. 29,	Chauncey N. Sawin, Lillian E. Corbett,	Westminster. Westminster.
Nov. 16,	Edwin C. Prescott, Elizabeth J. Howard,	Ayer. Westminster.

DOG ACCOUNT.

Licenses have been issued to the following persons:

Atwood, George W.,	\$2.00	Leland, H. J.,	2.00
Barnes, Geo. W. (three),	6.00	Lewis, Anna,	2.00
Bassett, Walter,	2.00	Mansur, Ernest,	2.00
Battles, Alton,	2.00	Mansur, Herbert,	2.00
Battles, Frank,	2.00	Marchand, Joseph,	2.00
Bean, Amos,	2.00	Marshall, Joseph,	2.00
Bean, John M.,	2.00	Gagnon, Lewis,	2.00
Black, Wm. J.,	5.00	Gilligan, Thomas,	2.00
Boardman, J. L.,	2.00	Gorden, Joseph,	2.00
Brosnahan, Patrick,	2.00	Griffin, W. H.,	2.00
Brown, A. E.,	2.00	Ham, Andrew,	2.00
Brown, E. E. (three),	12.00	Hamilton, C. H.,	2.00
Buckley, Michael,	2.00	Hession, Malichi,	2.00
Burnes, D. J.,	2.00	Holden, W. S.,	2.00
Burpee, Elmer,	2.00	Howard, Nathan,	2.00
Burpee, James,	2.00	Hromata, Anthony,	5.00
Carey, Hubert,	2.00	Hubbard, Wm. (two),	4.00
Chambers, Wm. E.,	2.00	Johnson, John,	2.00
Clark, Mrs. James,	5.00	Jordan, Frank,	2.00
Collins, E. W.,	2.00	Kellon, Fred, Jr.,	2.00
Curry, John,	2.00	Kelty, James,	2.00
Duquet, Eli,	2.00	Knight, Hiram,	2.00
Dutton, C. R. (two),	7.00	Knower, Harry	2.00
Eaton, Frank,	2.00	Lafarrier, N.,	2.00
Estabrook, Arthur (two),	7.00	Larkin, Peter,	2.00
Estabrook, C. A.,	2.00	Lavers, R. J.,	2.00
Flagg, E. R.,	2.00	Laws, W. H.,	2.00
Flannagan, Mrs. John,	2.00	Sawin, Franklin,	2.00
Mathers, J. M.,	2.00	Shepard, Herman,	2.00
Miller, C. M.,	2.00	Smith, E. T. (two),	7.00
Miller, C. W.,	2.00	Smith, Geo. E.,	2.00

Miner, George,	2.00	Smith, Josiah,	2.00
Minott, John,	2.00	Smith, Leonard,	2.00
Newcomb, D. Y.,	2.00	Smith, S. N.,	2.00
Newell, Fred I.,	2.00	Snow, C. F.,	2.00
Newton, Marcus,	2.00	Spaulding, H. E.,	2.00
Neal, W. F.,	2.00	Story, Joseph,	2.00
Osborne, L. F.,	2.00	Strang, J. H.,	2.00
Page, Chas. H.,	2.00	Vieweg, Wm. (two),	4.00
Parcher, F. L.,	2.00	Waterhouse, W. H.,	2.00
Partridge, H. J.,	5.00	Weston, A. E. (three),	12.00
Peeler, D. A.,	2.00	Whitney, E. G.,	2.00
Pond, Joseph,	2.00	Whitney, J. M.,	2.00
Poore, W. A.,	2.00	Whitney, W. C.,	5.00
Ray, Hiram,	2.00	Wilson, B. W.,	2.00
Rice, E. J.,	2.00	Wiswell, G. H.,	2.00
Roper, J. Chester,	5.00	Wood, C. E.,	2.00
Runnels, H. V.,	2.00	Wright, Ellen,	2.00
Sargent, G. A.,	2.00		

Whole number of dogs licensed, 108.	
Number of males, 95, at \$2,	\$190.00
Number of females, 13, at \$5.	65.00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$255.00
Less clerk's fees, 108, at 20 cents,	21.60
	<hr/>
Amount paid County Treasurer,	\$233.40

TOWN HISTORY ACCOUNT.

Number of town histories sold during the fiscal year ending February 8, 1898,	27
Amount handed to Town Treasurer from sale of same at \$2 per copy.	\$54.00
Number of copies exchanged for other books,	5

List of books exchanged for and placed in Town Library:
 History of Clinton.
 History of King Philip's War.
 History of Gardner.
 History of Hubbardston.
 Early Records of Lunenburg.

Number of Town Histories on hand at last report,	86
Number sold and exchanged,	<u>32</u>
Number on hand February 8, 1898,	54

CHARLES F. GILES, Town Clerk.

Examined and approved February 11, 1898.

D. C. MILES, Auditor.

Selectmen's Report.

For the Financial Year Ending February 10, 1898.

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

TOWN CLERK.

Charles F. Giles,	\$25.00
-------------------	---------

TOWN TREASURER.

Frank W. Fenno,	45.00
-----------------	-------

SELECTMEN.

S. D. Simonds,	\$100.00
A. J. Bolton,	50.00
E. H. Merriam,	50.00
	<hr/>
	200.00

ASSESSORS.

W. H. Carter,	45.00
T. S. Wood,	45.00
L. S. Miller,	45.00
	<hr/>
	135.00

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

Hobart Raymond,	42.50
H. J. Partridge,	15.00
F. W. Derby,	15.00
	<hr/>
	72.50

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

A. J. Bolton,	50.00
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

E. C. Damon,	14.75
K. A. Delva,	23.60
F. A. Merriam,	35.00
(Included in school expense.)	

AUDITOR.

D. C. Miles,	10.00
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TAX COLLECTOR.

L. C. Miller, in part for 1897,	60.00
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CONSTABLES.

W. W. Sterlin, service and expense,	27.08
F. N. Carpenter, service and expense,	21.17
T. S. Wood, no charge,	
George E. Smith, service and expense,	18.64
	<hr/>
	66.89

REGISTRARS.

F. A. Miller,	5.00
G. W. Bruce,	3.25
F. M. Sawyer,	5.75
C. F. Giles,	7.25
H. J. Partridge, previous year,	2.75
	<hr/>
	24.00

ELECTION OFFICERS.

S. F. Lamb,	2.00
W. S. Holden,	2.00
C. H. Dupee,	2.00
Judson Foster,	1.00
Warren LeGeyt,	1.00
Arno E. Hurd,	2.00
C. A. Simonds,	1.00
	<hr/>
	11.00

SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

A. A. Fisher,	2.00
H. H. Viner,	2.00
	<hr/>
	4.00

SCHOOLS.

Expended for schools, including committee's salary
(for details see School Report), 4,567.28

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Holden Poor Farm Association, \$205.95
Outside Poor, 877.46— 1,083.41
(For details see Overseers' Report.)

SOLDERS' FAMILY AID.

Mrs. N. P. Slocumb and family, 50.78

HIGHWAY EXPENSE.

Highway repairs and bridges, \$1,451.23
Opening winter roads, 576.22— 2,027.45
(For details see Report of Superintendent of Streets.)

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

(For details see Report of Fire Engineers), 449.45

CEMETERY EXPENSE.

(For details see Report of Cemetery Commissioners), 47.07

STATE AID.

Holden Poor Farm Association,	\$205.95	
K. Augusta Delva,	48.00	
Emily B. Eager,	48.00	
Mahala G. Fenno,	24.00	
Julia A. Foster,	48.00	
Leroy A. Howe,	72.00	
Joseph T. Marshall,	48.00	
Thomas Marsh,	48.00	
William E. Rice,	72.00	
Sanford A. Sawyer,	48.00	
Abbie E. Wetherbee,	24.00	
Moses A. Wood,	72.00	
Edward C. Estabrook,	4.00	
Edward Sharon,	4.00—	\$632.00

MISCELLANEOUS.

March	10,	Meals Printing Company, Town Reports,	73.92
	27,	Sentinel Printing Company, Printing Franchise,	4.50
	27,	Sargent & Gates, wood for Town Hall,	24.00
	27,	Lester A. Bolton, cutting wood for Town Hall,	5.95
	27,	Israel Dickinson, one cord wood for Town Hall,	4.50
	27,	G. R. Godfrey, straps for Sexton,	2.50
	27,	M. Bell Hager, services as Librarian,	25.00
	27,	A. E. Mossman, Aqueduct water and tub,	25.80
	27,	M. D. Whitney, inspecting animals,	1.50
April	24,	M. Bell Hager, cataloguing, etc.,	48.71
	24,	E. R. Miller, express,	3.05
	24,	Sentinel Printing Company, Library cards,	3.40
	24,	S. D. Simonds, sundries,	20.00
	24,	J. F. Chaffin, piano for school,	100.00
May	29,	A. B. Holden, Memorial expense,	55.00
	29,	Geo. Raymond, surveying at bridge,	6.00
	29,	Aqueduct Company, water for schools and hall,	21.00
	29,	Greenwood Bros., insurance on school buildings,	37.12
	29,	Derby & Miller, sundries Town Hall,	11.90
	29,	Estes & Lauriat, books for Library,	128.88
	29,	M. Bell Hager, binding books,	17.50
June	26,	Sentinel Printing Company, printing,	6.50
	26,	M. D. Whitney, inspecting animals,	73.55
	26,	Allison & Sweet, insurance on school buildings,	34.11
	26,	Allison & Sweet, insurance on Town Hall,	29.24
	26,	C. F. Snow, team by A. J. Bolton,	1.00
July	31,	Sentinel Printing Co., grass bill,	2.66
July	31,	J. E. Symonds, table for Selectmen,	10.25
Aug.	28,	A. E. Mossman, returning 11 births,	2.75
	28,	A. J. Bolton, miscellaneous items,	1.90
	28,	Derby & Miller, sundries Town Hall,	4.40
Sept.	25,	M. Belle Hager, Librarian,	25.00
	25,	Lester A. Bolton, putting wood in house,	3.00
	25,	T. S. Wood, suppression of liquor traffic,	193.49
Oct.	30,	Metallic Guide Board Company, two boards,	1.50
	30,	Kenyon News Company, books for Library,	28.70
	30,	C. L. Mansur, care street lamps,	10.00
	30,	Derby & Miller, sundries Town Hall,	2.97

	30,	S. F. Lamb, blacksmithing,	5.55
	30,	Willard Mossman, putting wood in house,	.50
Nov.	27,	Damon & Gould, door and window springs,	12.60
	27,	C. A. Priest Lum. Company, repairing door,	2.25
	27,	Waldo Tottingham and others, cleaning hall,	12.60
	27,	Augustine Whitney, repairs on hall,	8.75
	27,	E. P. Miller, inspecting animals,	12.15
Dec.	25,	T. S. Wood, expense on liquor case,	89.71
	25,	F. A. Curtis, maintaining water tub,	2.00
	25,	Derby & Miller, oil for hall, etc.,	3.80
Jan.	29,	J. B. Carpenter, paper for Town Hall,	29.00
	29,	B. L. Rich, tuning piano at hall,	2.00
	29,	D. W. Hill, work on Town Hall,	104.04
	29,	Allison & Sweet, insurance No. 1 school-house,	24.00
Feb.	8,	Artemas Merriam, wood for Town Hall,	1.58
	8,	William Mayo, lettering boards,	.75
	8,	F. A. Merriam, care of clock for 1897,	20.00
	8,	Derby & Miller, sundry items,	3.45
	8,	C. L. Mansur, care of Town Hall, Feb. 1,	72.00
	8,	D. C. Miles, maintaining water tub,	2.00
	8,	G. W. Bruce, sundry items for Library,	1.30
	8,	Hobart Raymond, returning deaths,	7.50
	8,	Hobart Raymond, travelling expenses to Holden,	15.17
	8,	F. W. Derby, travelling expenses to Holden,	1.52
	9,	C. H. Smith, selling grass on Farm,	2.00
	9,	H. J. Partridge, time and expense to Holden,	9.78
	9,	E. P. Miller, inspecting animals,	7.20
	9,	M. D. Whitney, inspecting animals,	61.95
	9,	C. F. Giles, recording births, deaths and marriages,	21.10
	9,	C. F. Giles, postage, express, etc.,	18.58
	9,	Allison & Sweet, insurance on Town Farm buildings,	20.50
	9,	F. W. Fenno, books and postage,	2.47
	10,	A. E. Mossman, reporting 15 births,	3.75
	10,	E. P. Pierce, counsel on liquor case,	75.00
Total,			<u>\$1,707.80</u>

STATE HIGHWAY.

April	24,	E. H. Merriam, repairs on road,	\$8.75
June	26,	E. H. Merriam, repairs on road,	6.50
July	20,	Asa Goddard, partial pay on contract,	1,000.00

Aug.	3,	Asa Goddard, partial pay on contract,	1,500.00
	23,	Asa Goddard, partial pay on contract,	607.51
	23,	Asa Goddard, partial pay on contract,	300.00
	23,	A. H. Proctor, culvert work,	97.36
Sept.	2,	E. P. Pierce, on Asa Goddard account,	115.00
	20,	A. H. Proctor, culvert work,	58.60
	20,	Asa Goddard, partial pay on contract,	941.14
Oct.	20,	Asa Goddard, partial pay on contract,	681.75
	20,	A. H. Proctor, moving stone,	16.25
Nov.	19,	A. H. Proctor, work on culverts,	201.24
	27,	Milton Ward, stone taken in 1895,	15.00
Dec.	25,	R. R. Atwood, repairing road,	11.37
Jan.	29,	Asa Goddard, in full, on contract,	264.60
	29,	O. B. Raymond, repairing Mrs. Sanders' yard bank,	6.25
	29,	E. H. Merriam, repairing road,	38.50
Total,			<u>\$5,869.82</u>

RECEIPTS AND DUES.

Received from Massachusetts Highway Com.,	\$8.75
July 19, Received from Massachusetts Highway Com.,	6.50
Aug. 4, Received per statement July 17, from Massachusetts Highway Commission,	657.78
Sept. 7, Received per statement Aug. 14, from Massachusetts Highway Commission,	2,726.25
Oct. 5, Received per statement Sept. 18, from Massachusetts Highway Commission,	1,029.08
Nov. 6, Received per statement Oct. 16, from Massachusetts Highway Commission,	612.98
Jan. 5, 1898, Received per statement Dec. 18, from Massachusetts Highway Commission,	264.60

Total,	\$5,305.94
Due from State for unpaid bills,	69.98

Showing a loss of

\$5,375.92
493.90

The loss sustained in this department arises wholly from a misunderstanding of terms and figures submitted by the Massachusetts Highway Commission.

Early in the season the chief engineer submitted a list of figures which the Commission were willing to pay for various kinds of

work. Our full Board examined them and seemed to be of one mind.

Later the contract books were forwarded, which were examined and seemed to bear the same figures and meaning as previously reported.

Without understanding of the matter we subsequently sub-let the work, and after a time found to our chagrin that the construction by the chief engineer of the meaning of a certain part of the work was materially different than we anticipated; but we felt that the proper course for us was to submit to the decision of higher authority, hence the loss.

RECAPITULATION.

Town Officers,	\$703.39
Schools,	4,567.28
Indoor Poor at Holden,	205.95
Outside Poor,	877.46
Soldiers' Families,	50.78
Highway repairs and bridges,	1,451.23
Opening winter roads,	576.22
Fire Department,	449.45
Cemetery Commission,	47.07
State Aid,	632.00
Miscellaneous,	1,707.80
State Highway,	5,869.82
Total amount of 320 orders drawn,	<u>\$17,138.45</u>

LIST OF JURORS.

As revised by the Selectmen Feb. 10, 1898.

John P. Roper,
Hobart Raymond,
Adin F. Baker,
Charles H. Smith,
Horace E. Davis,
Joseph L. Raymond,
Charles F. Giles,
Stephen F. Lamb,
Edgar E. Fenno,
Theodore S. Wood,
Charles A. Simonds,

John F. Sawin,
Andrew J. Bolton,
John W. Towle,
William W. Sterlin,
Frank W. Derby,
Frank M. Sawyer,
Melville H. Warner,
Louie S. Miller,
John Minott,
Arno E. Hurd,
Albert Minott.

The Selectmen and officers of the various departments recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year:—

Schools, including Committee service,	\$3,800.00
Highway Department,	2,500.00
Public Charities,	1,100.00
Town Officers, other than School Com.,	650.00
Fire Department,	250.00
Memorial Day and care monument grounds,	55.00
Cemeteries,	75.00
Care of tower clock,	20.00
Soldiers' Families,	50.00
Payment of debt, miscellaneous and contingent expense,	1,200.00
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	\$9,700.00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. D. SIMONDS,
A. J. BOLTON,
E. H. MERRIAM,

Selectmen Town of Westminster.

Examined the foregoing and approved,

D. C. MILES, Auditor.

Feb. 11, 1897.

Report of Superintendent of Highways.

To the Selectmen and Citizens of Westminster:

The work in the Highway Department has been conducted during the year with the view of limiting the expenditure to the amount appropriated, but owing to the recent severe storm the necessary expenditure in opening the roads to make them reasonably passable, caused an expenditure a little in excess of the amount appropriated, as shown in the following figures.

Several new guide boards and posts have been erected, and others have been repaired, painted and re-lettered, and but few places remain, so far as I know, where others are necessary; quite a lot of new guard rail has been put up, and yet there are many other places which should receive prompt attention.

Our roads are not as good as could be desired, but I have endeavored to expend the funds at my command as judiciously as possible, and it remains with you to decide what amount shall be expended in this work the ensuing year.

The following is the account in detail:

HIGHWAY REPAIRS.

Including bridges, railings and guide boards.

1897.

April 24	R. J. Lavers,	\$28.53
24	Albert E. Smith,	11.60
24	A. J. Bolton and others,	38.95
24	E. H. Merriam,	8.00
24	W. H. Waterhouse,	46.50
24	Warren Le Geyt,	28.52
24	A. H. Proctor,	13.25
24	A. S. North,	48.98
24	W. A. Garno, stringers,	25.00
24	A. J. Bolton and others,	14.00

May	29	R. J. Lavers,	38.50
	29	A. J. Bolton and others,	55.25
	29	Alton Battles,	5.25
	29	Charles F. Knower,	37.70
	29	Albert E. Smith,	37.55
	29	W. H. Waterhouse,	6.00
	29	S. L. Bolton,	41.80
	29	Warren Le Geyt,	24.50
	29	W. H. Waterhouse,	98.38
	29	S. H. Sprague,	72.60
	29	A. H. Proctor,	44.30
	29	A. S. North,	23.00
June	26	A. J. Bolton and others,	19.25
	26	A. J. Bolton,	14.00
	26	E. H. Merriam,	3.63
	26	W. H. Waterhouse,	27.90
	26	John C. Goodridge,	2.10
	26	Battles & Goodridge,	5.11
	26	A. S. North,	34.62
	26	R. J. Lavers,	14.00
July	31	Charles F. Knower,	3.25
	31	W. H. Waterhouse,	3.90
	31	Frank A. Curtis,	19.36
	31	Judson Foster,	23.00
Aug.	28	Alton Battles,	7.50
	28	A. J. Bolton and others,	49.10
	28	R. J. Lavers,	18.02
Sept.	25	S. L. Bolton,	28.48
	28	W. H. Waterhouse,	17.50
	25	Charles F. Knower	23.40
	25	A. H. Proctor,	26.70
	25	Hiram Ray,	92.40
	25	A. J. Bolton,	10.50
	25	Charles C. Dawley,	1.65
	29	Leonard O. Robinson,	10.80
Oct.	30	A. J. Bolton,	7.10
	30	Albert E. Smith,	24.50
	30	Charles M. Miller,	9.00
	30	A. J. Bolton,	12.25
	30	Leonard O. Robinson,	23.50
Nov.	27	Judson Foster,	9.50
Dec.	25	A. J. Bolton and others,	26.45
	25	M. Hessions,	15.50
	25	Albert E. Smith,	17.35
	25	A. H. Proctor,	23.45

Jan.	29	George H. Harris,	10.42
	29	A. S. North,	25.28
Feb.	8	Artemas Merriam,	42.60

\$1,451.23

OPENING WINTER ROADS.

1897.

Mar.	4	A. E. Smith,	\$5.40
	4	William Vieweg,	4.67
	4	G. E. Taylor,	2.85
	4	S. L. Bolton,	11.53
	4	Sargent & Gates,	4.90
	4	A. S. North,	14.40
	4	Judson Foster,	7.17
	4	Porter F. Page,	6.00
	4	R. J. Lavers,	4.25
	4	Leonard O. Robinson,	3.75
	4	Charles F. Knowler,	3.69
	4	George E. Smith,	6.42
April	23	W. H. Waterhouse,	3.05
	23	S. H. Sprague,	9.00
	23	A. H. Proctor,	6.00
May	29	Alton Battles,	1.02
	29	M. D. Whitney,	2.54
June	26	Battles & Goodridge,	1.50
July	31	T. S. Wood,	3.60

1898.

	29	W. Basset and L. Jackson,	3.30
Jan.	29	Charles M. Miller,	9.70
	29	G. H. Harris,	4.55
	29	Judson Foster,	7.25
	29	R. J. Lavers,	7.75
	29	S. L. Bolton,	12.25
	29	George M. Davis,	5.02
	29	Charles F. Knowler,	9.70
Feb.	8	Ernest and Milo Harrington,	2.55
	8	Albert E. Smith,	35.35
	8	George M. Davis,	1.70
	8	Charles F. Knowler,	19.30
	8	John Minott,	15.48
	8	Charles M. Miller,	18.65
	8	Porter F. Page,	17.15
	8	R. J. Lavers,	30.59
	8	William Vieweg,	8.40
	8	Leonard O. Robinson,	23.80

8	W. H. Waterhouse,	30.30
8	John C. Goodridge,	39.80
8	Judson Foster,	23.20
8	S. H. Sprague,	11.75
8	A. H. Proctor,	30.05
9	A. J. Bolton and others,	16.05
9	Hiram Ray,	29.62
9	C. F. Snow,	8.00
9	Simeon L. Bolton,	30.32
9	M. M. Newton,	15.05
9	M. D. Whitney,	4.85
		<hr/>
		\$576.22
Add highway repairs,		1,451.23
		<hr/>
Total expenditure		\$2,027.45
Appropriation,		2,000.00
		<hr/>
Amount overdrawn,		\$27.45

A. J. BOLTON,

Superintendent of Highways.

Feb. 11, examined and approved.

D. C. MILES, Auditor.

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

Support of poor at Holden for the year ending Jan. 31,

1898 \$205.95

(For details of Indoor Poor see Report of Holden
Poor Farm Association.)

OUTSIDE POOR.

DANIEL L. HALL:

Groceries,	\$7.07	
Medical attendance,	29.50—	\$36.57

ALLEN A. BARNES:

Aid rendered,	52.00
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AMOS M. CUTLER AND WIFE:

Aid rendered,	156.00
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MRS. G. S. BEUMAN:

Aid rendered,	72.00
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JERRY. GORDON:

Burial expense,	15.00
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OBED FREEMAN:

Groceries and food,	46.86
Provisions,	25.12
Wood,	38.50
Medical attendance,	5.00
White washing, etc.,	5.25— \$120.73

FLAVEL N. RICE:

Groceries,	32.24
Clothing,	13.66
Wood,	7.45
Board,	12.00— \$65.35

VICTOR MATSON:

Burial expense,	15.00
Medical attendance,	2.50— \$17.50

JAMES COULTER:

Groceries and clothing,	7.95
Medical attendance,	3.00— \$10.95

SARAH BLAKE:

Clothing,	3.13— \$3.13
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SAMUEL ROSEBURY:

Groceries,	34.20
Provisions,	13.07
Medical attendance,	15.00— \$62.27

NAPOLEON LAFARRIER:

Shoes for children,	2.25— \$2.25
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WILLIAM NICHOLS:

Medical attendance,	1.00
Goods,	1.65— \$2.65

TOWN OF GARDNER.

Aid rendered Mary J. Seaver,	150.90
Aid rendered Eugene Montville,	40.52
Aid rendered Edward F. Feltman,	7.50— \$198.92

TRAMPS:

Keeping 229 tramps,	57.25	
Fuel for same,	4.89—	\$62.14

Total expense for outside poor,		<u>\$877.46</u>
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Due from State for State paupers,	\$32.50	
Due from town of Methuen, account Rosebury,	62.27	
Due from town of Princeton, account F. N. Rice,	15.00	
Due from town of Maynard, account James Coulter,	10.95	
Due from town of Stoneham, account D. L. Hall,	25.75—	<u>\$146.47</u>

Net expense of outdoor poor,		<u>\$730.99</u>
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Net expense of indoor poor,		<u>205.95</u>
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Total expense of poor,		<u>\$936.94</u>
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HOBART RAYMOND,

F. W. DERBY,

H. J. PARTRIDGE,

Overseers of Poor of Westminster.

Seventh Annual Report of the Holden Poor Farm Association.

For the year ending Jan. 31, 1898.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Managers.

INMATES RECEIVING SUPPORT.

Martha Parker, 59 years, Holden, April 1, '90, continues	365
Lizzie Kenney, 41 years, April 1, '90, continues	365
Nahum S. Newton, 67 years, Dec. 24, '91, continues	365
Mabel Conners, 43 years, April 16, '96, died May 3	92
Winifred Durdeen, 48 years, June 22 '97, continues	223
George Hall, 50 years, March 31, '97, continues	306
Mary Maynard, 33 years, Dec. 16, '97, continues	47
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	1,763

Nancy Boynton, 59 years, Hubbardston, April 1, '90, continues	365
David Rice, 78 years, Hubbardston, April 1, '91, continues	365
Albert Wheeler, 74 years, Hubbardston, March 20, '96, continues	365
Henry Clark, 18 years, Hubbardston, May 18, '97, continues	258
Austin L. Russell, 30 years, Hubbardston, April 1, '97, died June 17,	77
John Wilson, 62 years, Hubbardston, Sept. 22, '96, dis. March 30, returned Dec. 15,	405
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	1,535

Eunice Walker, 72 years, Oakham, April 1, '92, continues	365
Lavina B. Field, 73 years, Oakham, Oct. 31, '94, continues	365
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	730

Carrie Snow, 43 years, Paxton, April 10, '96, continues	365
Elijah C. Foster, 79 years, Phillipston, April 30, '96, continues	365
Charles Dunton, 78 years, Phillipston, April 30, '96, continues	365
W. W. Cobb, 66 years, Phillipston, March 5, '97, discharged April 6,	32

762

Elizabeth Demond, 77 years, Rutland, May 6, '95, continues	365
Rosa Roen, 59 years, Rutland, April 26, '97, continues	280
George W. Hodgkin, —, Rutland, June 14, '97, continues	231
John Q. Adams, 47 years, Rutland, Jan. 6, '98, continues	25
Benjamin F. Townsend, 13 years, Rutland, Oct. 10, '97, discharged Dec. 28,	79
Josephine Townsend, 12 years, Rutland, Oct. 10, '97, discharged Dec. 28,	79
Isabel Townsend, 10 years, Rutland, Oct. 10, '97, discharged Dec. 28,	79
Ella Townsend, 8 years, Rutland, Oct. 10, '97, discharged Dec. 28,	79

1,217

Adeline Eager, 57 years, Westminster, April 1, '92, continues	365
Margaret Cronin, 52 years, Westminster, April 1, '92, continues	365
Sarah Blake, 59 years, Westminster, Aug. 10, '96, discharged March 30,	58

788

Total number of inmates, 30; died, 2.

Discharged from the institution, 6; remaining, 22.

Total days board furnished 7,160, or 1,022 6-7 weeks.

Average weekly number, 19 2-3.

Handel Winship of Westminster remained a boarder until his death, July 4.

Nahum L. Newton is an honorably discharged soldier, lives from choice at the institution, Holden receiving full compensation for his board. Mrs. Elizabeth Demond of Rutland is still attended by her sister, Miss Lois Brown, as nurse.

The receipts and expenditures were as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Milk,	\$1,064.27
Stock,	53.00
Pork and beef,	47.13
Eggs,	42.69
Sundry receipts,	32.03
Handel Winship's board,	85.72
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	\$1,324.84

EXPENDITURES.

Warden's and matron's salary,	\$575.00
Inside labor,	158.79
Outside labor,	111.78
Grain,	547.54
Groceries,	401.69
Meat,	155.79
Bread,	83.95
Fish,	40.97
Clothing and dry goods,	125.31
Tools and seeds,	45.05
Drugs and medicine,	30.32
Medical attendance,	27.25
Boots and shoes,	25.88
Repairs on buildings,	68.24
Crockery and table ware,	19.67
Blacksmithing and repairs on tools,	35.62
Stock,	155.00
Fertilizer,	70.00
Printing articles of Association	6.00
Rent,	200.00
Interest,	120.99

Wood,	40.00
Miscellaneous,	151.17
Total,	\$3,196.01
Deducting receipts,	1,324.84

Balance net expense, \$1,871 17

Cost per week for each inmate, \$ 1 829

The net expense to each town is as follows, viz :

Holden,	\$460 74
Hubbardston,	401 15
Oakham,	190 76
Paxton,	95 38
Phillipston,	199 14
Rutland,	318 05
Westminster,	205 95
	<hr/> \$1,871 17

The following table gives annual condition since organization of the association :

	Number inmates.	Weekly average.	Total No. weeks.	Cost per week
First year,	12	$7\frac{7}{6}$	377 $\frac{5}{6}$	\$2 875
Second year,	16	$11\frac{7}{6}$	586	2 243
Third year,	26	$21\frac{2}{6}$	1142	1 959
*Fourth year,	30	$22\frac{37}{66}$	967	2 232
Fifth year,	30	18.89	982 $\frac{2}{7}$	2 545
Sixth year,	36	$18\frac{1}{3}$	984	2 30
Seventh year,	30	$19\frac{1}{3}$	1032	2 138
Eighth year,	30	$19\frac{2}{3}$	1022 $\frac{6}{7}$	1 829

The past year has been a prosperous one for the association, the weekly expense per inmate being the smallest since its organization.

* 10 months.

Unusually good health has been enjoyed by the inmates, only two deaths occurring, and the expense for medical attendance has been very small. The present efficient warden and matron, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Potter, have been retained for another year. A second silo has been constructed in the barn, which will tend to increase the quantity of milk produced. It will be noted that the number of cows has been increased from eight to fifteen under association management. Hon. F. S. Coolidge of Fitchburg contributed his fifth annual Christmas dinner to the inmates of the institution. This association was formed in 1890, with four towns, for the term of three years, and at the expiration of that

time was continued for five years. As the second term expires on March 31, the seven towns now constituting the association, at town meetings held Nov. 2, 1897, each authorized their respective Boards of Overseers of the Poor to arrange for a further continuance of the association, which has been done for another term of five years, under conditions similar to those previously existing, except that Holden is to assume all repairs and alterations of the buildings, for an annual rental of the real estate of \$325.

Hobart Raymond,
Jesse Allen,
F. T. Holt,
John G. Allen,
H. H. Pike,
D. Webster Baker,
H. A. Kennen,

Westminster, President.
Oakham, Secretary.
Holden, Treasurer.
Hubbardston.
Paxton.
Phillipston.
Rutland.

Board of Management.

The Articles of Agreement and By-Laws are hereby submitted.

PREAMBLE AND BY-LAWS

—OF—

POOR FARM ASSOCIATION.

We, the subscribers, representing the Towns of Paxton, Holden, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland, Phillipston and Westminster, chosen under an article in a warrant for a Town Meeting in our respective Towns, held in November, 1897, reading substantially as follows:

"To see if the Town will choose a committee of three, with power to act with similar committees, which may be appointed by other Towns, to select a suitable place for the co-operative care of the poor, and to arrange terms and conditions for the use of the same, or act or do anything in reference thereto."

By virtue of the authority vested in us by our respective Towns, at the meeting aforesaid, and to carry out the intent of our said Towns, we do hereby form ourselves into an association for the purpose of caring for the poor of our respective Towns, to be called the Poor Farm Association.

Article 1. The association shall be formed for a period of five years.

Article 2. The plant shall be managed by one person from each Board of Overseers of the Poor of the Towns forming the association.

Article 3. The poor of all the towns interested, requiring full support, shall be maintained at the plant selected, except the violent and uncontrollable insane.

Article 4. The expense of maintaining the poor at this place shall be divided among the respective Towns according to the number of weeks' board furnished the poor belonging to that Town.

Article 5. In case of death, the Warden shall notify, at once, the Town to which the deceased person belongs, who shall care for and bury said person at its expense.

Article 6. The Board of Management, under this agreement, shall employ a suitable physician to attend and care for all paupers committed to such farm when sick, and the expense thereof, including all needed medicines, shall be charged as items of expense to such said association.

Article 7. Any Town desiring to join the association may do so at the commencement of any association year, by vote of the association.

Article 8. Section 1. The association shall begin April 1, 1898, and the annual report shall be made the first day of February every year thereafter.

Section 2. The association shall have authority to make contracts for the lease of real estate and personal property, to be used on the plant of the association, such contract to be in accordance with these by-laws.

Section 3. The association hereby selects the Holden Poor Farm and the personal property thereon, as the plant of the association, for the term of five years.

Article 9. The stock and personal property on the said farm in Holden, to be valued for the next five years as the last eight years, such valuation to be charged against the association, and any deficiency or increase at the final settlement, shall be considered as common items of expense or gain, to be borne by each Town pro rata, according to the number of weeks' board of paupers each stands charged with at each annual settlement.

Fire Department.

To the Selectmen of Westminster:

Gentlemen:—In behalf of the Board of Engineers I present this Annual Report of the Fire Department of the town of Westminster for the year ending February 9, 1898.

The engine houses are in good, fair condition, and everything is kept in good shape pertaining to them. The men of both companies have responded promptly to all calls, and have worked for the interests of the department.

The town met with a great loss in the burning of Artemas Merriam's chair shop, which we all feel very deeply. That fire showed the people the advantage of having two good fire companies. The men worked with a will and to good advantage in protecting other property.

An alarm was given April 24, for a brush fire on Livermore Hill; damage light.

October 5 there was a brush fire on the Worcester road, near Wm. Nichols'; 35 cords of wood burned; damage, \$70.

October 8 there was an alarm of fire from Artemas Merriam's chair shop, which startled every one. The fire got under such headway before the fire companies could get their engines at work that the shop burned to the ground, but by hard work saved the surrounding property; loss estimated at \$75,000.

Roll of membership Engine Company No. 1, from May 1, 1897, to May 1, 1898:

S. F. Lamb,
J. C. Goodridge,
Olaf Anderson,
G. W. Eaton,
F. M. Sawyer,
H. A. Shepard,
E. C. Mansur,
Edward Rice,
W. C. Stone,
Eddie Miller,
George Miller,
Harry Miller,
Chas. Giles,
Will Stockwell,

C. H. Mansur,
Frank Kelly,
C. L. Mansur,
Frank Adams,
James Donaldson,
Chas. Eaton,
F. A. Merriam,
Frank Eaton,
Dan Saunders,
Calvin Miller,
Leonard Bradley,
Leon Eaton,
Louie Miller.

ROLL OF ALWAYS READY ENGINE COMPANY NO. 2.

Albert Rice,	Ralph Simonds,
J. A. Baker,	George Anderson,
Judson Foster,	Frank Pond,
M. W. Towle,	W. S. Holden,
H. N. Derby,	Edward Sharon,
A. F. Baker,	H. K. Viner,
C. A. Simonds,	Clarence Viner,
S. D. Simonds,	E. J. Sawin,
H. J. Partridge,	Frank Jorden,
Leon Holden,	Joseph Stone,
Harry Seaver,	Chauncey Sawin,
Bert Dawley,	Harry Fisher,
George Dawley,	Arthur Nye,
A. A. Fisher,	John Hoover,
G. W. Fisher,	J. E. Story,

EXPENDITURES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

April	24,	C. L. Mansur, services 37 men,	\$185.00
	24,	H. N. Derby, services 30 men,	150.00
	24,	C. L. Mansur, janitor service,	5.00
	24,	H. N. Derby, janitor service,	4.00
	24,	F. E. Kely, steward,	7.25
May	29,	E. H. Sinclair, services men at brush fire,	26.70
	29,	H. N. Derby, services men at brush fire,	20.60
	29,	C. F. Snow, teams to brush fire,	5.50
	29,	A. J. Bolton, services five engineers,	25.00
	29,	John E. Kenney, watching brush fire,	1.50
Sept.	25,	C. C. Dawley, repairing engine,	1.50
Oct.	30,	C. F. Snow, team to Waterhouse brush fire,	2.00
	30,	Arthur Estabrook and others, watching brush fire,	12.40
	30,	C. L. Mansur, watchers at brush fire,	3.00
			<hr/>
			\$449.45.

ESTIMATES FOR ENSUING YEAR.

Services of 30 men,	\$150.00
Services of 5 engineers,	25.00

Services of janitors,
Miscellaneous items,

7.00
68.00

\$250.00

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. DAWLEY, Chief Engineer.

J. W. TOWLE, First Assistant.

F. H. BATTLES, Second Assistant.

L. S. MILLER, Third Assistant.

A. J. BOLTON, Clerk.

Examined and approved Feb. 11, 1898.

D. C. MILES, Auditor.

Report of the Cemetery Commission.

To the Selectmen of Westminster:

Gentlemen:—The Cemetery Commissioners herewith submit the report of their transactions of the past year. The Cemetery Commission have expended the sum of \$47.07 for the mowing of the grass and righting up of the gravestones in the cemetery during the past year. The work of righting up the gravestones in the cemetery is nearly completed, the severe weather compelling a delay of the work until the weather in the spring will permit its resumption. The descendants of the Miller family have repaired the old tomb in the south port of the old cemetery in a very neat and creditable manner, and will place a suitable tablet thereon, which will very much improve the appearance of that part of the cemetery.

The Commissioners would respectfully recommend that an appropriation of seventy-five dollars be made by the Town for the purpose of mowing the grass and filling up the depressions where they occur in the various burial lots, and also to finish the righting up of the remaining gravestones.

An itemized account of the expenditure of the Cemetery Commission is herewith submitted:

Harrison Perkins,	\$30.00
Stillman Whitney,	6.15
C. R. Baker,	5.55
H. L. Pierce,	3.25
H. Raymond,	2.12

\$47.07

AMOS B. HOLDEN,
HOBART RAYMOND,
HARVEY L. PIERCE,

Cemetery Commissioners.

Library Report.

Early in the year a sum of money was given to the library, which had been placed in the hands of Miss A. S. Brown and others, to be used for the benefit of the town. The trustees gratefully received this gift, and decided to use it for the purchase of a desk and other pieces of furniture much needed in our library.

Books have been presented by Superintendent G. R. Pinkham, Dr. C. W. Page and Mrs. C. Zabriskie.

Many public documents, both State and National, have been received.

The leaflet catalogue shows that 208 books have been added this year.

The circulation has been greater than ever before, over 6,000 books and magazines having been taken from the library during the year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Allowed by Town,	\$272.16
Received for catalogues, fines, etc.,	14.77
	<hr/>
	\$286.93

EXPENDITURES.

Books,	\$128.88
Magazines,	29.70
Librarian's salary,	50.00
Work and repairs on books,	38.20
Binding books and magazines,	17.50

Printing,
Supplies and incidentals,

$$\begin{array}{r} 4.87 \\ 8.20 \end{array}$$

Balance,

\$277.35
9.58

MRS. S. C. WARNER.
MRS. A. R. HAGER.
A. J. BOLTON.
MISS ABBIE S. BROWN.
MRS. H. L. BRUCE.
HOBART RAYMOND.

Feb. 11, 1898. Examined and approved.

D. C. MILES, Auditor.

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Tax Collector's Report.

Tax of 1897.

Tax on polls, personal and real estate...		\$10,244.34
Collected on taxes to date.....	\$8,492.15	
Discount allowed to October 1.....	453.58	
Amount abated	66.99	

\$9,012.72

Uncollected		\$1,231.62
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Cash received on tax principal.....	\$8,492.15	
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Cash received for interest.....	6.91	
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8,499.06

Cash paid Town Treasurer.....		\$8,499.06
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Respectfully submitted,

L. S. MILLER, Collector.

Treasurer's Report.

Received:—

Cash on hand at last report,	\$2,129.97
Refunded by Ephraim Louekin,	5.00
Slaughter license, J. P. Roper (1896),	1.00
Slaughter license, E. B. Lynde,	1.00
Slaughter license, S. K. Brown,	1.00
Bowling alley license, E. G. Whitney,	2.00
Bowling alley license, Whiting Bros.,	2.00
Auctioneer's license, C. H. Smith,	2.00
Books sold from Library,	6.62
Histories sold by Town Clerk,	54.00
Police Court fines, balance Fitchburg,	43
Gardner Savings Bank, temporary loan,	2,000.00
Gardner Savings Bank, temporary loan,	2,000.00
T. W. Fenno, temporary loan,	550.00
Rent of Town Hall,	85.50
Rent of Town Farm,	7.75
Lumber sold,	4.00
Grass sold, Farm,	60.25
Grass sold, Cemetery,	6.00
Grass sold, near Town Hall,	1.00
State Highway account,	5,671.21
On account of inspection of animals,	161.65
On account of Superintendent of Schools,	550.00
Town of Princeton, tuition,	35.34
Town of Princeton, aid to Flavel Rice,	55.03
Town of Stoneham, aid to D. L. Hall and family,	154.44
Income of Mass. School Fund,	381.28
Library table account,	12.51
National Bank tax,	925.44
Corporation tax,	506.59
Dog tax,	218.23
State aid,	656.00
Interest from Westminster National Bank,	53.39
Tax of 1892,	1.05

Tax of 1895,	93.18
Tax of 1896,	596.10
Tax of 1897,	849.06
	849.06
	<u>\$25,490.02</u>

Paid:

First Cong. Sunday School interest,	\$7.50
Oliver M. Merriam, interest,	90.00
Sarah E. Drury, interest,	48.00
Leonora D. Baker, interest,	24.00
Myra E. Ellis, interest,	60.00
Mary E. Hill, interest,	68.76
Harriet Gaut, interest,	34.20
Sarah A. Upton, interest,	11.63
Sarah A. Upton, principal,	50.00
Gardner Savings Bank, notes and interest,	4,042.44
F. W. Fenno, note and interest,	554.40
State tax,	542.50
County tax,	517.00
Orders from Selectmen,	17,138.45
Cash in bank,	2,301.14
	<u>\$25,490.02</u>

LIABILITIES.

Leonora D. Baker, note,	\$400.00
Sarah A. Upton, note,	150.00
Myra E. Ellis, note,	1,000.00
Mary E. Hill, two notes,	1,146.00
Harriet Gaut, note,	684.00
Sarah E. Drury, note,	800.00
Oliver M. Merriam, two notes,	1,500.00
First Congregational Sunday School, note,	75.00
Mary Ann Farnsworth,	
Cemetery lot fund,	50.00
Abigail K. Coleman and Almond,	
Derby cemetery lot fund,	100.00
Mary E. Hood (Titus lot),	
Cemetery fund,	50.00
Joseph W. Estabrook,	
Cemetery lot fund,	50.00
	<u>\$6,005.00</u>

CASH RESOURCES.

Due for State aid,	\$684.00
Due for aid to State paupers,	32.50
Due from town of Methuen for aid to Samuel Roseberg,	62.27
Due from town of Princeton for aid to Flavel Rice,	15.00
Due from town of Maynard for aid to James Coulter,	7.95
Due from State for Superintendent of Schools,	400.00
Due for rent of Town Hall,	22.00
Due from Amos Robinson's estate for school building,	10.00
Due from town of Stoneham for aid to D. L. Hall and family,	25.75
Due from town of Princeton for tuition,	38.50
Due from town of Gardner for tuition,	3.85
Due from State for inspection of animals,	78.17
Due on account of State Highway,	69.98
54 Town Histories on hand,	108.00
Uncollected tax of 1889,	2.90
Uncollected tax of 1894,	13.55
Uncollected tax of 1895,	42.75
Uncollected tax of 1896,	481.54
Uncollected tax of 1897,	1,231.62
Cash in bank,	2,301.14
	<hr/>
	\$5,631.47
Town debt,	373.53
Debt February 10, 1897,	707.32
Debt February 10, 1898,	373.53
	<hr/>
Decrease,	\$333.79

FRANK W. FENNO, Treasurer.

Examined and approved February 11, 1898.

D. C. MILES, Auditor.

Auditor's Report.

February 11, 1898.

Having carefully and thoroughly examined the reports of the Collectors of Taxes, we find that there is a large amount of taxes due and yet unpaid, and also notice that some taxes have been paid in small payments, seeming to show that it is very hard for some well disposed persons to pay; and others seem to be inclined to be indifferent as long as they are allowed to be.

These records of our financial conditions indicate that it would be well for the voters of the Town to be very careful at the Town Meeting not to make the burden unnecessarily heavy by voting to raise more money than is actually needed. We are pleased to find that a large part of the taxpayers are prompt to pay their proportion of the burden of sustaining a good municipal, county and state government.

The officers of the Town have taken great pains to discharge their duties faithfully and to keep their accounts correct and their books and papers neat and in good order.

We hereby report the amount of uncollected taxes as we find them in the books of the Collectors:

Taxes of 1889.

Still uncollected \$2.90

L. S. MILLER, Collector pro tem.

Taxes for the Year 1894.

Still uncollected \$13.55

L. S. MILLER, Collector.

TAXES FOR 1895.

As reported Feb. 10, 1897,		\$137 03
Amount abated,	\$9 40	
Amount collected,	84 88	
Amount uncollected,	42 75	
	<hr/>	\$137 03
Amount tax collected,	\$84 88	
Amount interest collected,	8 30	
	<hr/>	\$93 18
Amount paid Town Treasurer,		\$93 18

L. S. MILLER,
Collector.

TAXES FOR 1896.

As reported Feb. 10, 1897, with \$7.82 change in abatement,		\$1,077 85
Amount since abated,	\$52 75	
Amount since collected,	543 56	
Amount uncollected,	481 54	
	<hr/>	\$1,077 85
Amount in hands of Collector,	\$30 82	
Amount of tax collected,	543 56	
Amount interest collected,	21 72	
	<hr/>	\$596 10
Amount paid to Treasurer,		\$596 10

L. S. MILLER,
Collector.

Taxes for the year 1897,		\$10,244 34
Amount abated,	\$ 66 99	
Amount discounted,	453 58	
Amount collected,	8,492 15	
Amount uncollected,	1,231 62	
	<hr/>	\$10,244 34
Amount tax collected,	\$8,492 15	
Amount interest collected,	6 91	
	<hr/>	\$8,499 06
Amount paid Town Treasurer,		\$8,499 06

L. S. MILLER,
Collector.

Feb. 10, 1898, taxes due and still uncollected,		\$1,772 36
Feb. 10, 1889, taxes due and still uncollected,		\$2 90
Feb. 10, 1894, taxes due and still uncollected,		13 55

Feb. 10, 1895, taxes due and still uncol-
lected,

42 75

Feb. 10, 1896, taxes due and still uncol-
lected,

481 54

Feb. 10, 1897, taxes due and still uncol-
lected,

1,231 62

\$1,772 36

Feb. 11, 1898.

D. C. MILES,
Auditor.

School Committee's Report.

Again we present to you our work for the year. We have always studied to give you just as much as we could obtain for the money you voted for us to expend for your children's education. This year we have used our utmost powers to stretch the appropriation so there should be no break in the course laid out and the benefits to be gained by the scholars. We have repaired the school buildings only just enough to keep the children comfortable, for schoolhouses can be painted and papered and other things purchased by and bye, but a break in the education of your children will be very hard to make up.

We believe thoroughly in economy, but when it is done at the expense of your children's future it is not only a great injustice, but a waste and extravagance, which your own children will condemn in the years to come.

We frequently hear some one remark: "That the schools of the past were good enough. What was good enough for me is good enough for my children," and they say it as though they thought it a very smart saying, and do not stop to think that they do not live up to it. If things of your childhood are good enough for you, why do you not cut all your grass with an old-fashioned scythe instead of a horse mower? Why not rake your hay by hand? do all your cultivating by hand? You used to walk when you went to town on errands; why do you furnish your children bicycles? You do like them to be up to date in all these things; and if physically, why not mentally?

Methods of teaching have changed in the same ratio as methods in farming, and like those methods, some may be very nice, others of less value—some, perhaps, of no value. We have to look them up to find out. Many of them are referred to those who are better acquainted with them, who help us to select what seems for the best.

At the District Convention Mr. G. R. Pinkham was re-elected as Superintendent of the District.

The year has been pleasant, and the relations between Committee, Superintendent and teachers have been harmonious and, we trust, profitable. At the beginning of the year Superintendent Pinkham, Mrs. Shepard, Principal of the High School, and the Committee met in the Centre School Building March 12 and completed the numbering and cataloguing of all the school books owned by the Town, and tried to keep track of all the Town property. Since doing this we find that books are missing, having been taken by some one and not returned. It not only cripples the work of the teacher by lack of books, but it is not honest. You have no more right to take and keep them than you have to take a window from the Town Hall.

We were very glad the town voted the money for the music teacher's salary. We know you will never regret it. A written examination in music is required in many places and soon will be all over our state.

We wish to render our thanks to the Town for its appropriation of one hundred dollars for the piano, and to the "class of '97" for its gift of fifty dollars toward the purchase of the piano. The schools have enjoyed it very much. Our thanks are also extended to the "class of '97" for the addition to the School Reference Library of "McMaster's History of the People of the United States." Also to J. T. Rice Relief Corps for the copies of Little Citizen and silk flags to be used at the Flag Salute, which were given to each school. Also to Miss Mabel Woodward for a Clay Modeling Table presented to the Primary School.

The premiums to the schools by the Farmers' and Mechanics' Association were appreciated: Two for the best exhibits in Centre Schools; two for best in outside districts. The Primary received the first in the Centre Schools and purchased a picture of Washington; the Intermediate School have not used theirs yet.

The Grammar School had a very fine exhibit of geological specimens, which they collected with the aid of their teachers, which deserve honorable mention, as did the work of the High School, which, though not showy, was work of merit.

Miss Minott, of School District No. 2, placed as much more with the sum received, and forwarded it to Superintendent Pinkham to buy books of reference for the school. Miss Howe and scholars, of the Lake School, bought two framed pictures and used them in Language work.

We refer you to the Superintendent's report for the commendation of State Supervisor of High Schools for the work of our Teacher and School, of which we justly feel proud.

The Schools have received two visits from members of the

State Board of Education, besides the presence of Mr. MacDonald at the Teachers' Institute, in January.

In asking for money for School needs, we have not included painting and papering and other repairs of the same kind as are necessary. If the Town has money for needed repairs, we shall be glad; but we have only asked for educational expenses. We think mind comes before matter, and children are of so much greater value than buildings, that the things of most value should receive the first attention. Let us remember that in educational matters we are especially

“Building, Building, every day,
Building for eternity.”

E. C. DAMON,
F. A. MERRIAM,
K. A. DELVA,
School Committee.

School Committee's Financial Statement.

RESOURCES.

Appropriation by Town, March meeting,	\$3,500 00
Appropriation by Town, special meeting,	100 00
Gratuity from State,	550 00
State fund,	381 28
Due from Town of Princeton, tuition,	38 50
Due from Town of Gardner, tuition,	3 85
Received for sale of old organ,	25 00
Received from Class of '97,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,648 63

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries of teachers,	\$2,467 50
Salary of Superintendent,	620 00
Books and supplies,	268 76
Fuel,	308 26
Repairs,	31 19
Transportation of pupils,	497 50
Janitors,	95 60
Music,	100 00
Salaries of Committee,	73 35
Miscellaneous,	94 12
Tuition to Town of Ashburnham,	11 00
School appliances,	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,642 28

Unexpended balance in Town treasury, \$6 35
Feb. 11, 1898.

Examined and approved.

D. C. MILES,
Auditor.

ROLL OF HONOR.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Spring Term, 1897:

Alice Battles, Carrie L. Lavers, Mary Towle, Rowland Larabee, George A. Merriam, Roy Eaton, Ada Mossman, Ruby Eaton, Frank Sharron, Carl Black, Fred Paicher.

Fall Term:

M. Ella Smith, Alice Battles, George A. Merriam, Roy Eaton, Ruby Eaton, Fred Paicher, Frank Sharron.

Winter Term, 1897-98:

Roy Eaton, Frank Sharron.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Spring Term:

Harry Weeks, Donald Simonds, Edna Quincy.

Fall Term:

Flora Hall, Anna Kelty, Addie Bradley, Florence Baker, Edna Battles, Alma Sawin, Frank Kelty, Henry Miller, Robert Merriam, Alfred Battles, Gertrude Urban, Carrie Viner, Clara Waterhouse, Edna Quincy, Hattie Towle, Nellie Lavers, Grace Gussman, Bernard Rose, Harry Weeks.

Winter Term:

Amy Miller, Flora Hall, Edith Tourjee, Florence Baker, Edna Quincy, Nellie Lavers.

INTERMEDIATE.

Spring Term:

Harry Black, Flora Hall, Anna Kelty, Hervey Miller, Arthur Rice, Alma Sawin, Edith Tourjee, Edna Battles, Lester Kelty, Lois Mossman, Arthur Raymond, Cyril Raymond, Leo Tourjee, Mildred Wood.

Fall Term:

Florence Raymond, Lester Kelty, Lois Mossman, Cyril Raymond, Mildred Wood, Maude Battles, Cora Kelty, Walter Miller, Hubert Quincy.

Winter Term:

Minnie Earle, Leon Miller, Lois Mossman, Cyril Raymond, Mildred Wood, Maude Battles, Ruby Bell, Arthur Eaton, Lora Eaton, Walter Miller, Hubert Quincy.

PRIMARY.

Spring Term:

Everett Black, Gertie Smith, Charlie Kelty, Ralph Towle, Earle Stockwell, Maud Battles, Ruby Bell, Lora Eaton, Cora Kelty, Mabel Ray, Arthur Eaton, Walter Miller, Hubert Quincy.

Fall Term:

Cora Corbett, Mary Miller, Frank Baker, George Mossman, Earle Stockwell, Charlie Kelty.

Winter Term:

Grace J. Miller, Nelson White, Frank Baker, Hervey Bell, Ralph Towle, Harold Strong, Earle Stockwell.

NUMBER 2.

Spring Term:

Nina Newell, Sylvia Spaulding.

Fall Term:

Nina Newell, Bernard Conway, Eddie Hill.

Winter Term:

Nina Newell, Charles Rosbury.

NUMBER 7.

Spring Term:

Addie L. Peeler, Bertha M. Whitney, Maria L. Peeler, Bertha M. Waterhouse, Mira E. Knight, Gertrude S. Stiles, Clara M. Waterhouse.

Fall Term:

Anna E. Peeler, Carrie I. Estabrook, Maria L. Peeler, Nellie L. Estabrook, Marcus W. Sterlin, Bertha M. Waterhouse, Alvin E. Estabrook, Addie L. Peeler, Bertha M. Whitney.

Winter Term:

Anna E. Peeler, Addie L. Peeler, Marcus W. Sterlin, Bertha M. Waterhouse.

NUMBER 8.

Fall Term:

Maggie Scott, Harry Howard, Josephine Newell.

Winter Term:

Stewart Newton, Mattie Newton.

NUMBER 10.

Spring Term:

Alvin Knowler, Lewis Fisher, Lora Jourdan, Emma Jourdan,
Jennie Jourdan.

Fall Term:

Lewis Fisher, Vera Viner.

Winter Term:

Ina Holden, Stella Simonds.

NUMBER 12.

Spring Term:

Charles Merriam, Herman Curtis.

Fall Term:

Winnie Wilson, Herman Curtis, Robert Hurd, Ruth Hurd,
Henry Curtis.

Winter Term:

Arthur Merriam, Winnie Wilson, Herman Curtis, Roger Battles, Robert Hurd.

No. of School	Terms	Teachers	Average Membership	Average Attendance	Per cent of Attendance	Cases of Tardiness	Tardiness per Pupil	Cases of Dismissal	Dismissals Per Pupil	Length of Term in Weeks.	Salary per Month.
No. 1, High	1	Jessie L. Shepard	37.17	35.22		21.		14		12	\$60 00
	2	Jessie L. Shepard	24.48	23.59	94.85	33	3.1	12	.8	12	
	3	Jessie L. Shepard	25.	23.34		67		6		10	
No. 1, Grammar	1	M. E. Coburn	22.62	22.02		5		5		12	40 00
	2	M. E. Coburn	43.	41.80	97.3	15	1.5	6	.3	12	
	3	M. E. Coburn	43.50	42.34		38		0		8	
No. 1, Intm'd	1	Mabel Woodward	34.25	33.52		23		27		11	36 00
	2	Lena Reynolds	26.55	24.25	95.25	1	1.8	24	5.2	11	32 00
	3	Lena Reynolds	24.	23.		3		28		8	
No. 1, Primary	1	Elnora E. Miller	28.36	27.49		1		9		11	36 00
	2	Elnora E. Miller	32.77	30.55	92.26	4	.1	10	.4	11	
	3	Elnora E. Miller	30.5	26.05		1		1		8	
No. 2	1	Carrie L. Minott	27.76	26.72		7		29		11	32 00
	2	Carrie L. Minott	27.13	25.24	94.	13	.7	18	1.6	11	
	3	Carrie L. Minott	14.13	12.92		2		1		8	
No. 4	1	R. M. Spaulding*								11	24 00
No. 7	1	Agnes W. Howe	13.67	12.		4		1		11	28 00
	2	Agnes W. Howe	15.	13.	86.80	8	.7	1	.1	11	
	3	Agnes W. Howe	10.50	9.		4		0		8	
No. 8	1	S. E. Whitehouse	14.06	13.1		25		10		11	26 00
	2	A. C. Washburne	13.83	11.15	83.74	11	2.5	18	2.	11	28 00
	3	Ray S. Hurd	15.00	12.12		10		8		8	24 00
No. 10	1	A. G. Deane	17.71	15.57		7		9		11	30 00
	2	Mabel Humphrey	21.20	18.85	84.11	22	2.	8	.9	11	28 00
	3	Mabel Humphrey	15.85	11.64		15		3		8	
No. 12	1	Emma S. Lavers	17.91	16.31		12		1		11	28 00
	2	Emma S. Lavers	14.86	14.44	94.44	17	2 1	5	.3	11	
	3	Emma S. Lavers	13.50	12.95		13		1		8	

*Register can't be found.

Eighth Annual Report of Superintendent of Schools.

To the School Committee, Mr. E. C. Damon, Chairman:—

I herewith submit my second annual report, the eighth in series issuing from this office:

In presenting to you this paper, I trust that you will pardon me if I lay before you a somewhat unique document.

From my point of view there are many things to which I should, in all candor, call your attention; there are many things which a proper respect for our townspeople and their interests make it obligatory on me to lay with some emphasis before you.

I shall therefore venture to speak to you and through you to your townsmen in a very plain, but I trust a straightforward manner. As a director of your educational work I have some statements to make, and as your executive, I have also some reports to make. The educational work has been continued and maintained much as during the preceding and first year of my administration. There have been changes, some of them important ones. They have, I trust, been incident to growth, and I hope our work has been progressive. I think it has. In this spirit then I lay before you the items of this report:

MODIFICATION OF THE COURSE OF STUDY.

A year ago I formulated and your Committee accepted a course of study covering the first twelve years of our school life. Previous to that time the course of study had been of eleven years' duration.

The last class to leave us on the eleven years' course left us in June, 1897, and according to the adopted plan, no class will be graduated in 1898, but a class will complete the extended course and be graduated.

The course as adopted a year ago, in so far as it pertained to the first nine grades, was based in major part upon the outline prescribed by the State Board of Education. It was, however, I may justly say, not copied from that, but was rather that scheme of work readapted, translated and applied to our local conditions, the effort being to do as much as possible for our own boys and girls. We have now had a year and more of trial. A year's experience prompts me to make slight modifications.

The complaint is made, and perhaps justly, that we are overcrowding our pupils,—that in attempting a multiplicity of subjects in our efforts to do much, we actually accomplish little. I myself appreciate this danger.

In so far as it pertains to the primary group of studies, Grades I-III, I unhesitatingly call for more simplicity, for less confusion. Holding this view then, I have sought to eliminate the more distracting and confusing topics, and to place more attention and energy upon the essentials. I have endeavored to do this, too, without depriving our younger children of any of the right life and joy justly their due. The essential studies to be taught young children I conceive to be Language, Reading and Number Work. About these essentials cluster all other groups; these subjects, taught intelligently and learned understandingly, our primary children will be educated with simplicity and will be well equipped for larger fields, and we shall, too, note a more rapid growth.

I do not wish to be misunderstood in the above statements. While we are concentrating our attention in these younger years upon few topics we are not neglecting to impart to our children much information of the life about us, of the life behind us, as well as the best means of sustaining that life; and so in teaching we give lessons upon the seasons, winds, snow, ice, sunset, soil, meadows, pastures and woodland; we talk of our early settlements, of the first houses and industries, of the earliest inhabitants of our land, and we illustrate the simple facts thus gained by a simple portraiture. We give simple lessons on the human body as the seat of the mind, and the home of the heart and soul; we study the plants, their simplest parts, their single qualities and habits, their usefulness and our debt to them.

This is not geography, but it is geographical. It is not history, but it is historical. It is not physiology, but a study of ourselves. It is not nature work, but the granting of free scope under wise guidance to the child's native powers; and these things we teach, these lessons we give incidentally and correlatively with language and reading, and with no confusion to the child mind.

We have now laid the foundation for more formal study to come later. We have done it by interesting the children in the

world about us and by directing their thoughts in wise channels.

In Grade IV, I add simply to the fundamentals mentioned above, simple lessons in geography, placing the children's hands what I judge to be a well adapted book—Frye's *Smaller Geography*. In Grade V, I also add the reading and study of simplified United States History. The effort here is to develop by educative stages the impulse gained, and the historical feeling started in the earliest years when we were studying language.

In those years we started language but we learned thoughts. The word was meaningless to us, but we caught the spirit beneath its wrapping. At this juncture we develop upon the foundations previously laid. Our children are able to do now rapid and aggressive work, satisfactory to themselves, their parents and their teachers.

During Grades VIII-IX considerable emphasis is laid on business forms. During the same period great stress and a constant drill is given technical English Grammar and the forms of thought. In these features I adhere to the old, and believe an unwise departure to have been made in many towns where the strict, close, even, analytical study of our Vernacular, and the rules and principles governing its use are forced to the back ground.

The study of Arithmetic I specially emphasize, and work in this subject is carried on through eleven of the twelve years of our course.

A year ago I called for increased attention to Mental Arithmetic. I have as yet seen no reason to regret that step. Colburn's *Mental Arithmetic*, dear to our fathers and familiar to us all, were distributed to our teachers as reference and desk books, and our teachers were asked to teach the principles of this book so far as possible. Our High School course of study I do not comment on. It has fairly well fulfilled my expectations. Slight changes will be needed in the future, but only slight ones. We aim to do what we can for our children while they are with us.

I have said the above words, feeling it to be the privilege of our people to know exactly what we are doing in our schools. I am conservative. I think we should all be. I hope to be progressive. I think it entirely possible to hold to the past and at the same time to progress along modern lines. to lose nothing and to gain much.

READING.

I regard Reading as the most important topic of our curriculum, and therefore I speak upon it with some emphasis. In

recent years great stress has been laid by many educators upon phonics as an element in the teaching of Reading to the younger grades.

Many teachers, however, are strongly opposed to this idea, claiming such a course to be simply a turning backwards and arguing that to give so much time and study to sound elements will necessarily detract attention from thought study, in which, in recent years reasonable progress has, I think, been made.

I adhere strongly to the following definition of Reading: (1.) Thought getting. (2.) Thought giving, and, therefore, I believe first in silent reading and secondly in the translation of this thought thus gained by oral expression.

I would by a naturally educative and developmental process foster and emphasize the study of words as the synonyms of ideas. The study of sentences as a means of thought study and at the same time I would develop in the child a system of natural phonics. I would teach words as we do now, but I would teach the elements of words in their phonetic relations, and by this means by holding to modern progress in eye culture, reach out and gather in the ripened fruits of ear culture. We shall still continue to educate the eye and the mind through the eye, but we shall introduce the culture of the ear, and in this way supplement other mind culture.

These two elements should be taught reasonably and correlatively—neither to excess—otherwise the teaching will be warped.

A system such as I have outlined will, I think, secure to our children better results than will be possible with a one-sided system.

As emphasizing and illustrating the above ideas I should like to recommend to your committee the introduction at any early date of the Rational Method of Reading. During the past year this system of reading, which has direct application to the youngest grades, has been introduced into the schools of Princeton and Sterling and with gratifying results. When the work and study on the part of the teachers has been faithful and earnest the progress has been exceptional. I have not asked for its introduction here, owing to our limited resources, but I hope we can take this advance step the coming year. Such features of the plan as I could introduce to the Town without additional expense to the Town, I have done, and one of the best teachers in this Town has reported to me that her Grade I have been enabled to acquire and use 550 words against the nominal 200 in the old regime.

Let me further emphasize the teaching of Reading. If there is any one study more important to our children than another it

is Reading. It is the foundation of all subsequent attainment and by all rights should be the main work of the primary grades. She who cannot successfully teach this art to our smaller children should not find a place in our schools, where there are small children, who must learn to read. This being my view I have emphasized Reading and given it my most earnest attention.

SPELLING.

Akin to Reading is Spelling. The relationship between the two is so marked that I am prompted to explain to our people the system now in vogue.

Nearly all grown persons (myself included) recall with pleasure or with pain the long lines of spelling classes with the master in front, pronouncing his difficult words to the class, with the pupils passing up or down as success or failure came to them. Growing from that system came the old time spelling book with words arranged according to the order of length or difficulty. Children were taught to spell the combinations letter by letter or double letter by double letter.

They knew not the meaning of these words nor could they use them, yet period after period and hour after hour were spent in their mastery. What was gained? "A race of good spellers," you say, and I acknowledge it.

From this our educators passed to the other extreme and adopted the written method, "in toto." Everything now is written—no oral spelling whatever—and what is the result? "A race of poor spellers" you say, and I acknowledge it. A third step. Attention is now given to thought study, to the use of words in sentences, to their meaning, their application, etc. The method is still written, what is gained? Greater thought efficiency, a better applied acquisition, but I must confess we are still poor spellers. A fourth step, this step is my own introduction. It is the result of my own study and observation. I call for an educative combination of the two methods with thought study and the meaning in application. In the selection of words I revert to geography, history, language, literature, science, reading and all departments and all habits of life. In the teaching of words, their meaning and application are emphasized, not from a dictionary but from daily use. The child knows and he understands. He will give a boyish answer, but it will be a correct application. In actual spelling exercises I pronounce to my class a word, the class repeats the pronunciation—this is phonic; this is sound; this is ear culture; this is oral.

The class then write the word first pronounced by the teacher and repeated by themselves. This is written; this is eye culture,

for now the pupil sees with his eyes the characters as written. We have now the oral features and their help, we have the written features and their help, we have combined the two and with no confusion. This plan has been in use in our schools for a year and as a result I am glad to report to our friends a rapid and sensible growth in this art ordinarily so confusing and yet so important.

THE STAFF OF TEACHERS.

During the past year there have been few changes in the staff of Teachers, and this, I think, to be wise. The personnel of this staff has, I think, been higher order than is usual in towns of this size. The consequence of this is we have better schools and more efficient instruction. I speak of this with special pride, for in my opinion very excellent work has been done in some schools and commendable effort has been made in all.

I consider the selection of a teacher to be a most important matter, and while I would not be unjust in my requisitions I still believe we may very rightly expect a larger and better equipment in the chosen teachers, more and better work in the schoolroom. A large hearted, broad minded, sympathetic nature I judge to be a prime qualification for the teacher of young children.

The time once was when we felt that the Teacher of but moderate ability could instruct our youngest children. That time is past. Educators, and under that term I include fathers and mothers, now recognize the earliest period, the primary period, as the most important epoch in the child's development. I, myself, adhere to this view, and I think that for our youngest children we need the very best qualified teachers.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS, INSTITUTES, ETC.

Twice each term during the past year I have called together our Teachers and conducted before them a meeting upon methods of teaching. These meetings have been outside the hours of the regular session.

At these meetings I have held a personal conference with each Teacher upon the needs of her school. At these meetings, too, parts, papers and class exercises have been presented by the Teachers themselves. I think these gatherings have been helpful to all parties present, and I, myself, have received therefrom quite as much as any Teacher.

On January 24 a Teachers' Institute for the Teachers of the entire district was held in this Town. This meeting was continued through the day and evening. Parts were taken by each of the

three principals, by Mr. MacDonald, Agent of the State Board of Education, and by Miss Nellie Adams of the Fitchburg State Normal School. The exercises were specially helpful and inspiring and I trust that as one result we shall have improved teaching in our schools. I desire to thank the good friends of this Town for their hospitality and kindness on this occasion.

TEACHERS' READING CIRCLE.

In the closing term of the year I established a Teachers' Reading Circle, or in other words, a Teachers' Class for Professional Improvement. These meetings have been held weekly on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 P. M. The attendance so far has been limited to the Teachers of the Center Building. Others would have attended had it been possible. During the spring term this same work will continue and I hope with equal enthusiasm. The class is now studying "Psychology applied to the Art of Teaching."

VISITS TO SCHOOLS.

During the past year I have spent so much of my time as possible directly in the Schools, in active work, in consultation with Teachers, in the teaching of classes in their presence and in the interpretation of the rules and regulations of our Schools. In other words, I have considered my work to be primarily in the Schools themselves rather than in clerical work. There is a considerable amount of work necessary in the management of any school system, large or small, and this Town has proved no exception. This extra service I have hired done at my personal expense that I might give more time and a more effective service to the educational interest of the boys and girls of our Town.

My visits to each School have been so frequent as my obligations to other Schools would permit. As in former years the weaker or inexperienced teacher has received more attention and time than the experienced and efficient worker. Some of our Teachers have steadily improved and such workers I hope we may be able to retain that our children may reap the benefits of their better training. I have spoken under another heading of changes in Teachers. It seems to me pertinent to here add the following:

Where one Teacher comes to us inexperienced and untrained, and so soon as she gains a better equipment is transferred from that School to a better one, the first School becomes but a Training School for the second, and its children but victims.

When a Teacher comes to our Town and after a short period of service leaves for a larger town, then our town becomes but the practice ground for some other town, and our children are again the victims. These things ought not so to be, and I hope in the future we may have fewer changes than in the past and that we may thus add permanency to our School interests and unbroken growth to our children's minds.

CO-OPERATIVE AGENCIES IN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.

In my annual report of a year ago I subscribed a few lines under this heading. In my Teachers' meetings I have not hesitated to call for a union of forces. In my conversations with parents, patrons and tax-payers I have unceasingly urged this and sought for their help, as is, perhaps, a well-known subject. It is, nevertheless, in my interpretation, such an important element in our school life that I am prompted to urge still further its application. I am your Superintendent of Schools and your servant. As such I respect your opinion, and influenced by your opinions when known, and am in honor bound in duty, held to advance your educational interests.

The direction of the educational work of this Town is my professional service and to it I give all my life and energy, but friends and townsmen these schools are your schools, these children are your children and their education while near to me is equally sacred to you. No man lives to himself alone, and no common interest can be relegated devoid of responsibility to any one agent.

The co-operation of Parents, Patrons and Committees, Teachers and Superintendent is a necessity if we would do our best service, and therefore, and because of your children's interest, I call for it. Without it any administration must be weak and inefficient—with it we shall do helpful service for our Children, for our Schools and for our Town.

MUSIC.

During the past year, as in former years, faithful and efficient instruction in vocal music has been given by Miss Etta Harrington.

To her energy, tact and helpful teaching are we indebted for the very satisfactory results attained. Once each week she has visited and instructed the pupils of each school. This work, thus outlined, has then been taken up and carried on through the

week by the teacher in charge. In this way the instruction has been made permanent and helpful for both teachers and pupils. I hope we may retain Miss Harrington for another year.

TEXT-BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

During the past year the purchases of text-books and supplies have been limited. This has been because of the narrowed appropriation for school purposes. Very few introductions have been made, and in many instances the work has been hampered by the small appropriation thought expedient for this purpose.

So far as I am personally concerned, I have been as conservative as possible in my recommendations, feeling that for this year we must, if possible, do without. The teachers have pleasantly accepted the situation and have wrought as best they could without the aid of help sorely needed. We are now in pressing need of some new books, and some introductions seem to me a necessity if we would even maintain the present standard, not mentioning any progress which we all most earnestly desire. For the coming year I earnestly hope that our people can grant us sufficient appropriations for real progress, thus enabling us to do a more efficient service for your boys and girls.

THE HIGH SCHOOL AND STATE INSPECTION.

During the Fall term Mr. J. W. MacDonald, Agent of the State Board of Education, paid this and the other Towns of this District an official visit to inspect the management and working of our High School. During this visit he examined classes, held consultations with the Teachers and Superintendent, leaving suggestions for improvement and some words of encouragement for the workers.

Mr. MacDonald strongly indorsed the efficient instruction and wise management of the present principal, remarking to your Superintendent as he left: "Not for a long time have I seen better drilled classes than Mrs. Shepard's classes in Algebra."

To his words of indorsement I wish cordially to add my own support. I consider the work done in this school to have been specially praiseworthy, full of personal sacrifice, abounding in ingenuity and in the best sense educative. I hope that the present principal may be retained.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ITS RELATION TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SERVICE.

During the past year the Library has rendered very helpful

service to our school interests. Under the direction of the Teachers in charge, books of reference have been freely borrowed and constantly used by our Grammar and High School pupils. The field of study has thus been broadened and great helpfulness rendered.

An effort now in its infancy is making towards the establishment of a pedagogical department in the Library. Some volumes have already been purchased.

The Trustees have courteously allowed your Superintendent to suggest other volumes helpful to the equipment of our Teachers. This he has been glad to do, and for this helpful support he desires to thank the Board.

SCHOOL EXPENDITURES FOR 1898-99.

It is possibly not my province to offer any words under the above heading. I am prompted to it from what I consider to be the necessities of the situation. I desire only the good of our schools—of your schools—for the schools are made up of your own boys and girls.

Our appropriation for the past year has been limited. It has been lessened by a considerable amount, and what has been the result? The schools have been less efficient, the instruction poorer and your own children have been mainly the losers. The length of the school year has been narrowed in some instances, and so less time have the teachers been enabled to teach your children. It seems to me impossible with so small an appropriation to maintain even the present efficiency another year. Sacrifices during the past year have been made in every way possible, but a sacrifice means a curtailment. We need money for salaries, money for books, money for repairs, money for many things if we would keep our schools to the standard. I think the people of Westminster want good schools, as good as those of any town of like population, and accepting this idea I unhesitatingly ask the citizens to grant so large an appropriation as is consistent with her possibilities. Not for my sake, but for your own children's sake, and in their name I ask it.

CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Many considerations in no wise personal to myself have led me to the belief that a change in the Superintendency of the Schools of this District is a wise step, and accordingly on Febru-

ary 1, I sent the following communication to the Chairman and Secretary of the Joint Convention:

Princeton, Mass., February 1, 1898.

To the Joint School Committee of the Princeton District, Mr. F.

A. Merriam, Chairman; Mr. J. C. F. Mirick, Secretary:—

Dear Fellow Workers:—Many causes lead me to think that a change in the Superintendency of Schools in this District would be desirable. These feelings are not personal. They are not prompted by intentions of ill will towards any one. I have arrived at this decision from a careful analytical study of the entire situation as viewed from the standpoint and condition of each town comprising the league, and thus in the interest of the common weal, as I understand it, I offer you my resignation as your Superintendent of Schools, to take effect at the end of my term of service or upon the appointment of my successor, so soon thereafter as may seem to your Committee desirable.

In this withdrawal and severance of our relations, I beg leave to express to you my sincere appreciation of the many courtesies and the support which you have seen fit to extend to me.

I venture the hope that some helpful service has been rendered, that some enlightenment has been added to our educational work, and that at some future time our schools may be better for the instruction of the past two years.

I bespeak for my successor your cordial and individual co-operation, and I ask for him, too, the earnest support of the fathers and mothers, the real mainstay of our school interests. Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE RIPLEY PINKHAM,

Superintendent of Schools.

To the many friends in Westminster who have contributed so much to make my work among them pleasant, and to the entire staff of Teachers of this Town who have so cordially supported me and followed my advice, I desire to express my sincere thanks.

I desire to assure the people of my deepest interest in the Town and her institutions, and my continued fealty to this scene of toil. Many things in the past have cheered me and made my life and work in this District pleasant, and as I leave I do so in the same temper, and though I say good-bye, " 'Tis not to forget." I trust that (in) the succeeding administration will be more suc-

cessful than mine has been, and that the many courtesies extended to me may be transmitted to my successor. Faithfully yours, in the service to the Town,

GEORGE RIPLEY PINKHAM,

Superintendent of Schools.

MUSIC.

The schools of Westminster have been visited once in two weeks during the spring and fall terms of 1897. In every school the day teacher has greatly aided in the work by earnest and intelligent effort.

The district schools are all quite large and are divided into two classes in each school for note reading, while all join in the general songs. Increased interest is shown in all grades from year to year, but particularly in those above the sixth, the High School ranking higher than ever before.

Much more satisfactory results would be obtained if a lesson could be given each week, as well as during the winter term, yet the present condition of the schools shows that much may be accomplished even with semi-monthly visits from the special teacher, and the spring term of '98 will find both teachers and pupils ready and eager for new and more difficult work.

MARIETTA HARRINGTON,
Special Teacher in Singing, Princeton District.

Report of Principal of Center Graded School.

Mr. George Ripley Pinkham, Superintendent of Schools:—

I herewith submit the following report for the year ending February 11, 1898:

Our work for the past year has gone in much the same lines as in the preceding year. In the primary room the lack of reading material has been supplemented by the use of the kektograph by the teacher. In drawing, the pupils have been helped in the study of form by modelling in clay, which was supplied by the teacher.

This school used the money given them by the F. and M. A. at the annual fair in September, for the purchase of a picture of George Washington, which has been hung in the schoolroom.

In the Intermediate school there was a change of teachers in September, but the work has been carried on with few changes. By the purchase of a few brushes and paints, mostly by the pupils themselves, and the use of some belonging to the teacher, the interest in drawing has been greatly stimulated, while the work in history and geography has been aided by the use of the same materials.

This school has not yet expended the money awarded to it at the fair, but will do so at the beginning of the next term.

In the Grammar school the number of pupils has been large, as the ninth grade were not sent into the next room, as has been the custom. No change has been made in the work, except that as the teacher remains longer in the room the work improves in quality. The pupils in this room have become much interested in minerals and, aided by the teacher, have made quite a collection for the schools. Both High and Grammar schools received quite a large addition to the mineral collection from Mr. Oscar W. Raymond.

In the High school no marked change has been made. As a

class graduated in June and the ninth grade remained in the Grammar school, the number of pupils has been smaller since September. For this reason the ninth grade have been sent in every day for Algebra and Latin. The class of '97 were very grateful to the Superintendent for the loan of Lowell's works from his library, as they were thus enabled to study the author.

In the singing hour the Grammar school comes into the High schoolroom, giving a chorus of over sixty voices. The work in music has been greatly stimulated by the new piano, which was obtained through the generosity of the town and the zeal of the class of '97. This class also purchased and presented to the school three volumes of McMarster's History of the People of the United States. These are for the school library and valuable for reference. In this room drawing has never been demanded, and most of the pupils have never had instruction in this work, as it has been introduced since they left the lower grades. Realizing that the pupils were losing something which at the present day is of great value, it was determined as far as possible to give them an opportunity to cultivate those powers which reproduction by the pencil and brush awakens.

Perhaps in no branch have methods of teaching changed more in the past few years than in drawing. The brush and water colors or ink are now used at first. Most of the pupils purchased their brushes and pans; those needed by the rest, together with paints and a special teacher, were procured from a private source, the town supplying the paper. The work has been under the direction of Miss Mary Gussman, who has labored carefully and earnestly, with very gratifying results. Miss Gussman gives to the pupils the benefit of her normal training, and the school is very fortunate in securing her services.

The work of the schools is greatly advanced by the use of the books from the public library, and the teachers are very grateful for the favors granted by trustees and librarian.

As a large number of the pupils bring their lunches when it is too stormy for them to play out of doors, and there is no place for them to stay but in the schoolroom, it has been found advisable to begin school at 12.30 and close at 3.30. This plan is especially good during the fall and winter terms, when the rooms are often too dark for work after half-past three.

We thank all who have co-operated with us in our work, and especially those who manifest their interest by visiting the schools.

JESSIE L. SHEPARD.



TOWN REPORT,
WESTMINSTER, MASS.
1898-99.





ANNUAL REPORTS

—OF THE—

Officers of the Town

—OF—

WESTMINSTER

—FOR THE—

YEAR ENDING FEB. 11, 1899.

GARDNER, MASS.:
PRINTED BY GARDNER NEWS CO.
1899.

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TOWN WARRANT.

WORCESTER, SS.

*To Either of the Constables of the Town of Westminster in the
County aforesaid,*

GREETING :

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify the Inhabitants of the Town of Westminster, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall, in said Westminster, on Monday, the sixth day of March, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles :

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ART. 2. To see if the Town, as provided by section 336, chapter 548, acts of 1898, will vote to rescind such action passed at a previous meeting as requires the Selectmen to be chosen for a term of more than one year, or act thereon.

ART. 3. To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of Selectmen to be chosen as to make the number constituting the Board consist of five, seven or nine.

ART. 4. To choose all necessary Town officers for the ensuing year ; also to vote by ballot, "Yes" or "No" on the question, "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this Town?"

ART. 5. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the support of schools, repairs of roads and bridges, public charities, payment of debt, miscellaneous and contingent expense, and appropriate the same.

ART. 6. To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of taxes, as may be necessary for the ensuing year.

ART. 7. To see what compensation the Town will allow the

Collector of Taxes the ensuing year and to determine the terms upon which they shall be collected, or act relative thereto.

ART. 8. To see if the Town will accept the list of jurors as revised by the Selectmen, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 9. To choose all necessary Committees for the ensuing year.

ART. 10. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen or any Committee, to contract with the State Highway Commission for the building of any section of State highway that may be acquired the ensuing year, or act relative thereto.

ART. 11. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate any sum of money to Post 69, G. A. R., to assist them in the observance of Memorial Day and care of grounds around the monument, or act thereon.

ART. 12. To see if the Town will choose an agent or agents to prosecute and defend all suits in behalf of the Town, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 13. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for care of the Cemeteries, or act relative thereto.

ART. 14. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate for use in the Fire Department, and to determine what compensation shall be paid to the enginemen, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell one of the fire engines, or act relative thereto.

ART. 16. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for the enforcement of the liquor law, or act relative thereto.

ART. 17. To see if the Town will empower the Collector of Taxes to use all means for collecting taxes which a town treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

ART. 18. To hear the report of any committee chosen by the Town, and act thereon.

ART. 19. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for care of the clock on the Baptist church, or act thereon.

ART. 20. To see if the Town will allow the Westminster Aqueduct Company any sum of money in compensation for maintaining a public watering trough, and supplying the cistern, located on Main street, with water for fire purposes during the year 1899, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 21. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for the purpose of lighting the streets in the centre village of the Town, or act relative thereto.

ART. 22. To see if the Town will vote to accept the private way as laid out by the Selectmen, over land of and near the residence of Betsey Estabrooks, record of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate any sum of money to complete the construction of the road previously laid out near the residence of M. D. Whitney, or act relative thereto.

ART. 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate any sum of money for care of surface and sewer drainage through the streets in the centre village, or act in relation thereto.

ART. 25. To see if the Town will vote to dispense with the services of a school superintendent and withdraw from the association, or act relative thereto.

ART. 26. To see if the Town will provide a suitable building and locate a Fire Engine at some point near the Westminster railroad station, raise and appropriate any sum of money for the same, act or enact anything relative thereto.

ART. 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate any sum of money to be expended by the Highway Commission for the purpose of macadamizing more than fifteen feet wide in Main street, or act relative thereto.

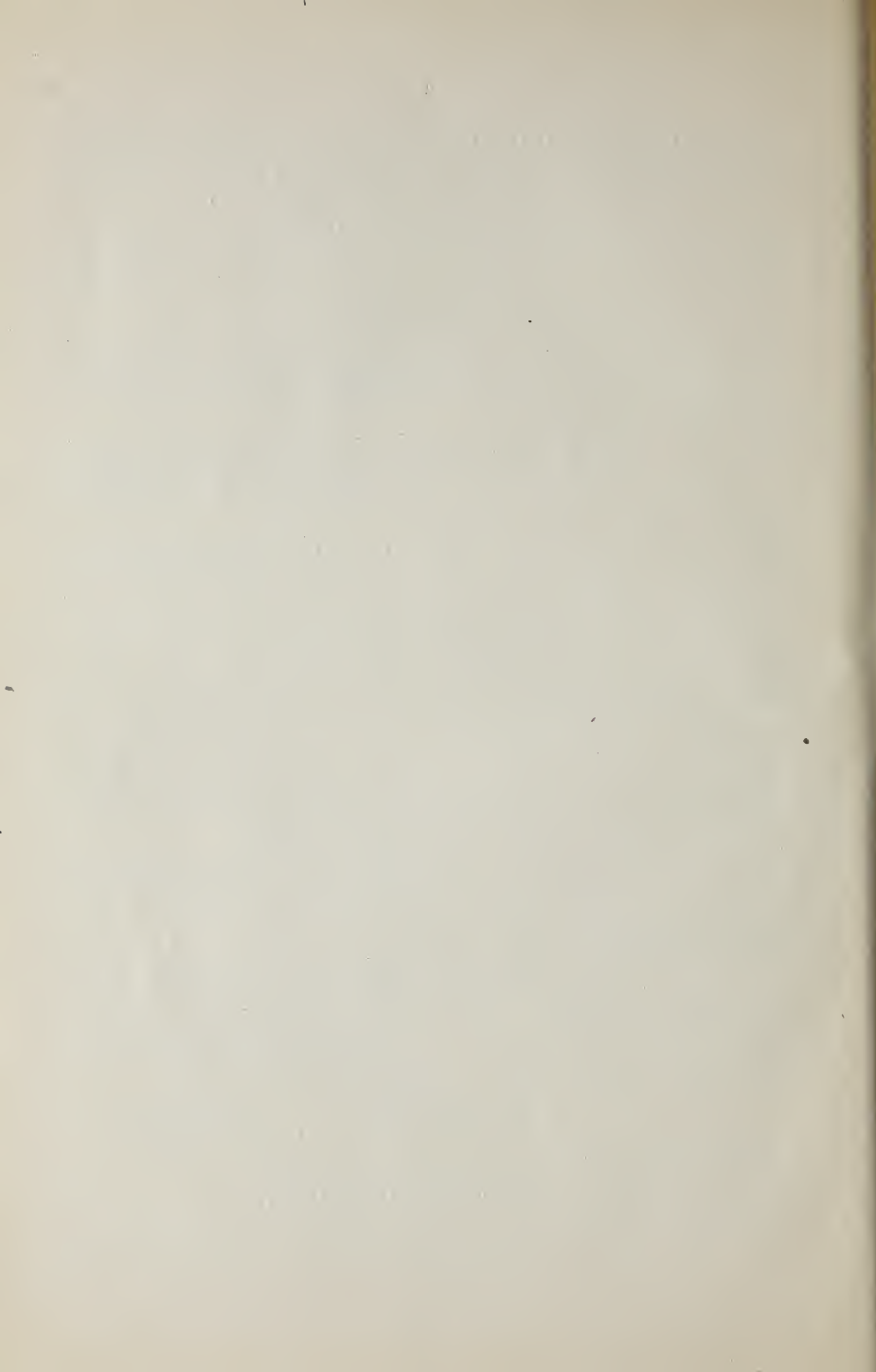
And you are directed to serve this warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the Public Meeting Houses in said Town, fourteen days, at least, before the time for holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid. Given under our hands this sixteenth day February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

S. D. SIMONDS,	}	<i>Selectmen of</i>
E. H. MERRIAM,	}	<i>Westminster.</i>

A true copy. ATTEST:

Constable of Westminster.



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1898.

There were three town meetings held during the year 1898. (In the following reports of town meetings, it is a synopsis from the records of each meeting.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Held March 7th, 1898.

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

S. D. Simonds was chosen Moderator.

ART. 2. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year ; also to vote by ballot, "Yes" or "No," on the question, "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

The following is a list of town officers chosen, together with those whose term of office has not expired :

TOWN CLERK.

CHARLES F. GILES.

TREASURER,

FRANK W. FENNO.

SELECTMEN,

S. D. SIMONDS was chosen for three years.

E. H. MERRIAM, term expires March, 1900.

A. J. BOLTON, " " " 1899.

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

HOBART RAYMOND,

FRANK W. DERBY,

HENRY J. PARTRIDGE.

ASSESSORS.

THEODORE S. WOOD, was chosen for three years.
 LOUIE S. MILLER, term expires March, 1900.
 W. H. CARTER, " " " 1899.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

FRANK A. MERRIAM was chosen for three years.
 EDWARD C. DAMON, term expires March, 1900.
 MRS. K. A. DELVA, " " " 1899.

CONSTABLES.

FRANK N. CARPENTER, THEODORE S. WOOD.

TAX COLLECTOR.

LOUIE S. MILLER.

AUDITORS.

DANIEL C. MILES, EDGAR E. FENNO.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS.

HOBART RAYMOND was chosen for three years.
 AMOS B. HOLDEN, term expires March, 1900.
 HARVEY L. PIERCE, " " " 1899.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

A. J. BOLTON, chosen for three years.
 C. F. GILES, " " " "
 HOBART RAYMOND, time expires March, 1900.
 MRS. H. L. BRUCE, " " " "
 MRS. S. C. WARNER, " " " 1899.
 MRS. A. R. HAGER, " " " "

FENCE VIEWERS.

THOMAS S. EATON, OSCAR B. RAYMOND,
 FRANK H. BATTLES.

FIELD DRIVERS.

EDMUND T. SMITH, *CHAUNCEY N. SAWIN,
 GEORGE H. STOCKWELL.

Officers elected having this sign () prefixed to their names did not qualify.

SURVEYORS OF WOOD, LUMBER AND BARK.

F. W. DERBY,	*G. W. BRUCE,	H. N. DERBY,
C. A. SIMONDS,	*C. B. MORSE,	E. R. FLAGG,
S. H. SPRAGUE,	A. E. GATES,	W. H. LAWS,
W. H. WATERHOUSE,	JOHN MINOTT,	
G. E. DIVOLL,	*M. H. WARNER.	

The result on the license question was Yes 29, No 107.

ART. 3. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the support of schools, repairs of roads and bridges, public charities, payment of debt, miscellaneous and contingent expenses, and appropriate the same.

Voted to raise and appropriate for

School purposes,	\$3.500
Highway Department,	2,000
Public Charities,	1,000
Town Officers,	550
Fire Department,	250
Payment of debt and Contingent expenses,	800
Indigent Soldiers,	50

For other appropriations, see articles 9, 11, 14, 18, 20 and 22.

ART. 4. To see if the town will authorize its Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of taxes, as may be necessary the ensuing year.

Voted to grant Treasurer leave to borrow as provided in this article.

ART. 5. To see what compensation the town will allow the Collector of Taxes the ensuing year, or act relative to.

Voted that the Collector of Taxes be allowed seventy-five cents per \$100 for collecting, and that the taxes be collected subject to the following conditions: All taxes, excepting on polls and non-resident, paid on or before October 1st, 1898, shall receive a discount of 6 per cent.

All taxes paid between October 1st, 1898, and January 1st, 1899, shall pay 6 per cent per annum, additional.

All taxes not paid on January 1st, 1899, shall be put into the hands of the Constable for collection.

ART. 6. To see if the town will accept the list of jurors as revised by the Selectmen, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to accept the list as revised.

ART. 7. To choose all necessary committees for the ensuing year.

Voted, to pass over.

ART. 8. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen, or any committee, to contract with the State Highway Commission, for the

Officers elected having this sign () prefixed to their names did not qualify.

building of any section of state highway that may be acquired the ensuing year. or act relative thereto,

Voted to allow the Selectmen to contract.

ART. 9. To see if the town will appropriate any sum of money to Post 69, G. A. R., to assist them in the observance of Memorial Day, and care of grounds around the monument, or act thereon.

Voted to appropriate \$55 (fifty-five dollars.)

ART. 10. To see if the town will choose an agent, or agents, to prosecute all suits in behalf of the town, or act thereon.

Voted that the Selectmen act as such agents.

ART. 11. To see if the town will appropriate any sum of money for the care of the cemeteries, or act relative thereto.

Voted to appropriate \$75 (seventy-five dollars.)

ART. 12. To see what compensation the town will allow the engine-men, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to allow them \$5 (five dollars) apiece per year, and twenty cents per hour extra for brush fires.

ART. 13. To see if the town will empower the Collector of Taxes to use all means for collecting taxes which a Town Treasurer may use when appointed Collector.

Voted that the Collector be so empowered.

ART. 14. To see if the town will appropriate any sum of money for care of the clock on the Baptist Church, or act thereon.

Voted to appropriate (\$20) twenty dollars.

ART. 15. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to sell the Town Farm, or any portion thereof, and convey the same by deed, or act relative thereto.

Voted that they be so authorized.

ART. 16. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to sell and convey by deed the Wheeler place, so called, situated on Main street in Westminster, or act relative thereto.

Voted that they be so authorized.

ART. 17. To see if the town will allow the Westminster Aqueduct Company any sum of money in compensation for maintaining a public water trough and supplying the cistern, located on Main street, with water for fire purposes during the year 1897, or act relative thereto.

Voted to refer the matter to the Selectmen.

ART. 18. To see if the town will raise and appropriate any sum of money for the enforcement of the liquor law, or act relative thereto.

Voted to raise and appropriate (\$200) two hundred dollars.

ART. 19. To hear the report of any committee chosen by the town and act thereon.

The Committee on Library Room extension, reported. and report was accepted. For reports of various town officers, see town reports.

ART. 20. To see if the town will vote to accept the road as laid out by the Selectmen near the residence of M. D. Whitney, record of which is on file with the Town Clerk, or act relative thereto.

Voted to accept the road as laid out, and to appropriate (\$100) one hundred dollars for building the same.

ART. 21. To see if the town will vote to purchase a strip of land on the west side of Center School building, appropriate money for the same, or act relative thereto.

Referred to School Committee to act at their discretion in way of leasing the ground.

ART. 22. To see if the town will vote to appropriate any sum of money for the purpose of lighting the streets in the centre village of the town, or act relative thereto.

Voted to appropriate (\$10) ten dollars.

ART. 23. To see if the town will instruct the Selectmen to petition the County Commissioners to relocate the Fitchburg road from Main street to a point below Elliot street near the watering tub; the new location being used in the event that the State Highway is extended to Main street, or act relative thereto.

Voted to pass over this article.

ART. 24. To see if the town will revoke the acceptance of the provisions of Chapter 27, Sections 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68, Public Statutes, as amended by the Acts of 1893, Chapter 417, Sections 267 to 270, relative to the election of Selectmen and Assessors for the term of three years, or act in relation thereto.

Passed over.

A vote of thanks was extended to S. D. Simonds for his impartial services as Moderator of this meeting.

Voted to dissolve the meeting.

CHARLES F. GILES, *Town Clerk.*

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Held March 25th, 1898.

ARTICLE I. To choose a Moderator.

S. D. Simonds was chosen.

ART. 2. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate any sum of money for the salary of Superintendent of Schools, or act in relation thereto.

Voted to raise and appropriate (\$300) three hundred dollars.

Voted to dissolve the meeting.

CHARLES F. GILES, *Town Clerk.*

STATE ELECTION AND MEETING FOR TOWN BUSINESS

Held November 8th, 1898.

Proceedings of meeting for the transaction of town business :—

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator.

Joseph Hager was chosen.

ART. 2. To hear the report of any committee chosen by the town, and act in relation thereto.

No committees reported. Passed over.

ART. 3. To see what action the town will take to collect certain bonds, giving as a guarantee for the building of an electric street railway in the town of Westminster, by the Fitchburg and Westminster Street Railway Company, act, or enact anything relative thereto.

Voted that the Selectmen be requested to state the conditions of said bonds. Chairman of Selectmen complied. No further action taken in relation to this article.

ART. 4. To see if the town will sustain the action of the Electric Railway Committee in inviting certain gentlemen to come to town to arrange for the building of an electric railway from Fitchburg through Westminster to Gardner.

Passed over.

ART. 5. To see if the town will vote to choose a committee to aid the Gardner, Westminster & Fitchburg Street Railway Company, in building a street railway through the town.

The following committee were chosen "to act for the best interests of the town and to serve without pay :"—

Hobart Raymond, H. J. Partridge, W. H. Waterhouse, S. H. Sprague, Joseph Hager, A. B. Holden and W. H. Carter.

Voted "that this committee be authorized to appear before the Railroad Commissioners and oppose as illegal and prejudicial to the interests of the town, the action of the Selectmen in securing counsel to represent the town before said Commission."

ART. 6. To see if the town will vote to establish a certain amount in compensation for the annual service of the Selectmen, or act thereon.

Voted that the annual compensation be not in excess of (\$150) one hundred and fifty dollars.

Voted to dissolve the meeting for town business.

PROCEEDINGS OF STATE ELECTION.

The polls for the election of State officers were open from 9.30 A. M. until 4.29 o'clock P. M.

The following is a partial list of persons voted for, and the number of votes given for each :—

GOVERNOR.

Alexander B. Bruce, Democratic, seventeen votes,	17
George R. Peare, Socialist Labor, two,	2
Winfield P. Porter, Democratic Nom. Paper, one,	1
Samuel B. Shapleigh, Prohibition, six,	6
Roger Wolcott, Republican, one hundred and forty-two,	142
Blanks, three,	3
	<hr/>
Total number of ballots cast,	171

SENATOR—THIRD WORCESTER DISTRICT.

Charles M. Day, Democratic, nineteen,	19
Samuel S. Gleason, Rep., one hundred and forty-one,	141
Blanks, eleven,	11
	<hr/>
	171

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT—THIRD WORCESTER DISTRICT.

Austin F. Adams of Barre, Rep., one hundred and thirty-six,	136
George Nichols of Hubbardston, Dem., twenty-four,	24
Blanks, eleven,	11
	<hr/>
	171

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS—FOURTH DISTRICT.

I. Porter Morse, Dem., twenty-two,	22
George W. Weymouth, Rep., one hundred and thirty-six,	136
Blanks, thirteen,	13
	<hr/>
	171

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—WORCESTER.

John J. Bowlen, seventeen,	17
George W. Cook, one hundred and forty-two,	142
Blanks, twelve,	12
	<hr/>
	171

At 6.00 P. M., voted to adjourn.

CHARLES F. GILES, *Town Clerk.*

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES,

For the year ending December 31, 1898.

Births recorded, eighteen,	18
Deaths recorded, twenty-five,	25
Marriages recorded, eight,	8
Brought into town for burial (non-resident), eleven,	11

NOTE.—It is important that the following reports of births, deaths, and marriages should be correct. If any errors or omissions are noticed please inform the town clerk. One still-birth, not published, must be added to both births and deaths, to make the number complete as stated above.

BIRTHS.

Date of Birth.	Name of Child.	Name of Parents.
Jan. 6.	Spencer Hervey Merriam,	Frank A. and Ida E.
Jan. 25.	Henry Hayward Miller,	Harry W. and Maud I.
Feb. 8.	Eva L. la Legeyt,	Warren W. and Ellen J.
Feb. 24.	Ethel Agnes Miller,	George C. and Mary A.
March 9.	Grace Delia Stone,	Joseph and Ellen S.
April 15.	George Erksine Haskins,	Charles E. and Amy F.
April 22.	Inona Marguerite Ela,	Joseph R. and Etta J.
April 25.	Hazel Amelia Ham,	Andrew C. and Sarah E.
May 4.	[Daughter] Roseberry,	George and Adel.
May 5.	Mildred Clare Goodridge,	Will J. and Sarah F.
May 23.	Henrietta Susie Viner,	Clarence S. and Edith M.
July 21.	Mary E. Brenner,	Charles and Nellie.
Aug. 16.	Pearl Celestia Vincent,	Floyd W. and Edith A.
Aug. 18.	Clarence Frederick Sawin,	Chauncey N. & Lillian E.
Oct. 9.	Hester Orile White,	Robert H. and Lila M.
Nov. 15.	Lois Merle Sawin,	Ernest J. and Nellie M.
Dec. 10.	Ruth Laura Derby,	Frank W. and Mary A.

DEATHS.

Date of Death.	Yrs.	Mos.	Ds.
Feb. 14.	10	1	9
March 1.	79	7	8
March 12.	46	3	
March 20.	87	5	19

Date of Death.	Yrs.	Mos.	Ds.
March 20. Betsey H. (Coolidge) Howard,	65		23
March 22. Persis B. (Brigham) Hartwell,	82	2	15
March 27. John Carey,	88	9	
April 28. Susan (Battles) Goodrich,	93		
May 5. Jonas P. Earle,	88	3	5
May 5. Mary B. (Baker) Carter,	86	10	20
May 19. Oscar G. Blanding,	52	9	25
June 8. Noel Ouellette,	70	5	2
July 3. Frederick A. Gorman,	17	4	12
July 13. Sarah A. (Long) Payton,	75	5	16
July 18. William J. Goodridge,	28	3	1
Aug. 27. Moses Creed,	79	4	
Aug. 29. Thomas Damon,	95	1	5
Sept. 14. N. Porter Howard,	65	10	28
Oct. 6. Nathan Baker,	68	10	14
Oct. 17. Calvin Whitney,	84	10	16
Nov. 22. John Harrington,	96	9	3
Dec. 2. Harriet L. (Earle) Dickinson,	57	4	4
Dec. 4. Kenneth McIntosh,	84	8	17
Dec. 21. William Nichols,	71	2	5

BROUGHT INTO TOWN FOR BURIAL (Non-resident).

Date of Death.	Yrs.	Mos.	Ds.	From.
Jan. 2. Eunice L. Brown,	83	8	11	Gardner.
Jan. 20. Nathaniel G. Healey,	71	3	13	Three Rivers.
March 27. Ezekiel Kendall,	71	9	8	Fitchburg.
March 30. Ethel F. Denton,	2		19	Templeton.
May 3. Maria (Sawin) Newton,	72	11	6	Gardner.
Sept. 10. Joseph B. Dunton,	71			Montague.
Sept. 17. Arthur B. Currier,		3	23	Ashburnham.
Nov. 21. Ruth Wentworth,		3		Fitchburg.
June 7. Harriet C. Harrington,	76			Leominster.
Sep. 27, '70. Benjamin Harrington,	78			Leominster.
Sep. 19, '71. Lucinda Harrington,	74	2	14	Leominster.

MARRIAGES.

Date.	Names.	Residences.
March 10.	Carlos Edwin Barron,	Westminster.
	Addie E. Adams,	Westminster.

Date.		Names.	Residences.
June	15.	Herbert S. Russell,	Gardner.
		Mary A. Scott,	Westminster.
June	22.	Ernest E. Harrington,	Westminster.
		Ethel M. Carter,	Westminster.
July	2.	Ernest C. Mansur,	Westminster.
		Agnes W. Howe,	Westminster.
July	4,	Isaiah L. Tillsen,	Whitman.
		Nellie M. Drury,	Whitman.
July	9,	William Nichols,	Westminster.
		Mary (Johnson) Nelson,	Westminster.
Aug.	10,	George M. Miller,	Westminster.
		Emma S. Lavers,	Westminster.
Oct.	12,	William S. Holden,	Westminster.
		Grace R. Nichols,	Westminster.

DOG ACCOUNT.

Licenses have been issued to the following persons :

Anderson, Olaf,	\$5.00	Earle, Charles,	2.00
Atwood, George W.	2.00	Eaton Frank,	2.00
Barnes, George W.	2.00	Eaton, Leon,	2.00
Bassett, Melville,	2.00	Estabrook, A. C.	5.00
Bassett, Walter,	2.00	Estabrook, C. A.	2.00
Battles, Alton,	2.00	Flagg, E. R.	2.00
Battles, Frank,	2.00	Flannagan, Mrs. J.	2.00
Bean, Amos,	2.00	Faskett, C. W.	2.00
Black, William J.	5.00	Gagnon, Lewis,	2.00
Bracket, G. J.	2.00	Griffin, W. H.	2.00
Broshnahan, P.	2.00	Ham, Andrew,	2.00
Brown, A. E.	2.00	Hamilton, C. H.	2.00
Brown, S. K.	5.00	Harris, G. H.	2.00
Bullard, C. P.	2.00	Hession, Malichi,	2.00
Burns, D. J.	2.00	Howard, Nathan,	2.00
Burpee, James,	2.00	Hubbard, William, (2)	4 00
Chambers, W. E.	2.00	Johnson, John,	2.00
Clark, James F.	5.00	Jordan, Frank,	2.00
Cody, James,	2.00	Kellon, F. J.	2.00
Collins, E. W.	2.00	Kelty, James,	2.00
Curry, John,	2.00	Knight, Hiram,	2.00
Daisy, Henry H.	2.00	Knowers, Harry,	2.00
Dawley, C. C.	2.00	Larkin, Peter,	2.00
Dutton, C. R. (2)	7.00	Laws, W. H.	2.00

Leland, H. J.	\$2.00	Sargent, George A.	\$2.00
Lewis, Anna,	2.00	Sawin, Franklin,	2.00
Mansur Bros.	2.00	Scott, Mrs. W. H.	2.00
Mansur, Herbert,	2.00	Shepard, Herman; (2)	4.00
Mansur, Ernest,	2.00	Smith, E. T.	2.00
Marchand, Joseph,	2.00	Smith, Frank,	2.00
Marshall, J. T.	2.00	Smith, G. E.	2.00
Miller, C. W.	2.00	Smith, Henry,	2.00
Miller, L. S.	2.00	Smith, Leonard,	2.00
Miner, George,	2.00	Smith, Josiah,	2.00
Minott, Albert,	2.00	Smith, Sidney,	2.00
Neal, W. F.	2.00	Spaulding, H. E.	2.00
Nelson, Jesse,	2.00	Story, J. E.	2.00
Newcomb, D. Y.	2.00	Strang, J. H.	2.00
Newton, Marcus,	2.00	Viewig, William, (2)	4.00
Page, C. H.	2.00	Ward, Mrs. E. V.	2.00
Parcher, F. L.	2.00	Waterhouse, W. H.	2.00
Partridge, H. J.	2.00	Weston, A. E. (3)	12.00
Peeler, D. A. (2)	4.00	Wilson, B. W.	2.00
Poore, W. A.	2.00	Wiswell, G. H.	2.00
Ray, Hiram,	2.00	Wood, C. E.	2.00
Rice, E. J.	2.00	Wright, Ellen,	2.00
Roper, J. C. (2)	7.00	Wuth, Emil,	5.00
Runnels, H. V.	2.00		

Whole number of dogs licensed, 103.

Number of males, 93, at \$2.00, \$186.00

Number of females, 10, at \$5.00, 50.00

Total,

\$236.00

Less clerk's fees, 103, at 20 cents,

20.60

Amount paid County Treasurer,

\$215.40

TOWN HISTORY ACCOUNT.

Number of town histories sold during the fiscal year
year ending February 11, 1899,

20

Amount handed to Town Treasurer from sale of same
at \$2.00 per copy,

\$40.00

One copy has been exchanged for the History of Ber-
lin, Mass., which has been placed in the Town
Library.

Number of Town Histories on hand at last report,	\$	54
Number sold and exchanged,		21

Number on hand February 11, 1899,		33
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CHARLES F. GILES, Town Clerk.

Examined and approved February 13, 1899,

DANIEL C. MILES,	} Auditing
EDGAR E. FENNO,	
	} Com.

Selectmen's Report

For the Financial Year Ending February 11, 1899.

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

TOWN CLERK.

Charles F. Giles,	\$25 00
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TOWN TREASURER.

Frank W. Fenno,	45 00
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SELECTMEN.

S. D. Simonds,	\$50 00	
A. J. Bolton,	50 00	
E. H. Merriam,	50 00	
	<hr/>	150 00

ASSESSORS.

W. H. Carter,	45 00	
T. S. Wood,	45 00	
L. S. Miller,	45 00	
	<hr/>	135 00

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

Hobart Raymond,	40 00	
H. J. Partridge,	15 00	
F. W. Derby,	15 00	
	<hr/>	70 00

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

A. J. Bolton,	75 00
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

E. C. Damon,	\$14 25
K. A. Delva,	11 87
F. A. Merriam,	35 00
(Included in school expense.)	

AUDITORS.

D. C. Miles,	\$4 00
E. E. Fenno,	4 00

TAX COLLECTOR.

L. S. Miller, in part for 1897 tax,	11 82
" " " " 1898 "	60 00

CONSTABLES.

Theodore S. Wood,	11 50
Frank N. Carpenter,	14 00
W. W. Sterlin, (1897)	1 00
	<hr/> 26 50

REGISTRARS.

F. A. Miller,	5 00
G. W. Bruce,	3 87
F. M. Sawyer,	6 50
C. F. Giles,	6 50
	<hr/> 21 87

ELECTION OFFICERS.

Charles C. Dawley,	2 00
Stephen F. Lamb,	2 00
Arno E. Hurd,	2 00
Charles H. Dupee,	2 00
Ernest J. Sawin,	1 00
Warren LeGeyt,	1 00
	<hr/> 10 00

SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

H. H. Daisy,	2 00
Frank Smith,	2 00
G. M. Donaldson,	2 00
	<hr/> 6 00

\$644 19

SCHOOLS.

Expended for schools, including committee's salary (for detail
see School Report), \$4,758 13

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Holden Poor Farm Association,	285 18	
Outside Poor,	785 02	
	<hr/>	1,070 20

(For details see Overseers' Report.)

SOLDIERS' FAMILY AID.

Mrs. P. S. Slocum,	135 78
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HIGHWAY EXPENSE.

Highway repairs and bridges,	1,518 14	
Opening winter roads,	932 38	
	<hr/>	2,450 52

(For details see Report of Superintendent of Streets.)

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

(For details see Report of Fire Engineers,	360 53
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CEMETERY EXPENSE.

(For details see Report of Cemetery Commissioners.)	45 60
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SEWER.

A. J. Bolton and others, for labor,	43 41	
Damon & Gould Co., pipe,	35 15	
A. Merriam Estate, for brick and cartage,	5 00	
J. W. Davis, for pipe, etc.,	5 16	
	<hr/>	88 72

1899.

CR.

Jan. 24. Elizabeth Howard,	22 18	
Feb. 4. Sarah E. Drury,	22 18	
	<hr/>	44 36
Balance due from Albert Howard,		44 36

STATE AID.

Henry Baker,	72 00
K. A. Delva,	48 00
Emily B. Eager,	48 00

Mahala G. Fenno,	\$24 00
Julia A. Foster,	48 00
L. A. Howe,	72 00
Joseph T. Marshall,	48 00
Thomas Marsh,	48 00
Wm. E. Rice,	72 00
Sanford A. Sawyer,	48 00
Abbie E. Wetherbee,	24 00
Moses A. Wood,	72 00
Edward C. Estabrook,	28 00
Edward Sharon,	32 00
James M. Eaton,	12 00
	<hr/> \$696 00

MILITARY AID.

William H. Stockwell,	8 00
Frank S. Taylor,	8 00
George B. Taylor,	8 00
	<hr/> \$24 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

March	26.	Sentinel Printing Co., printing franchise,	\$ 5 00
	26.	Mary Belle Hager, librarian,	25 00
	26.	J. F. Chaffin, tuning piano,	2 50
	26.	E. P. Miller, inspecting meat,	1 50
	26.	M. D. Whitney, " animals,	2 10
	26.	Gardner News, town reports,	72 01
	26.	George Raymond, surveying road,	9 00
	26.	H. A. Turner, Gordon and Coyette case,	7 52
April	30.	G. W. Tibbetts, scraper blade,	8 00
	30.	J. L. Richards, county atlas,	25 00
	30.	Derby & Miller, oil for hall, etc.,	3 98
	30.	Misses Hager and Bruce, work in library,	38 23
	30.	Susie A. Wood, work in library,	13 00
	30.	E. C. Miller, express for library,	4 55
May	28.	L. C. Welton, care street lamp,	5 00
	28.	Dryden Gussmann, cutting wood for hall,	4 50
	28.	A. B. Holden, memorial appropriation,	55 00
	28.	A. Whitney, repairs on library,	12 25
	28.	A. E. Mossman, returning births,	2 75
	28.	Westminster Water Co., water for school and hall,	21 00
	28.	C. W. Foscett, wood for town hall,	24 00
	28.	Estes & Lauriat, books for library,	142 92
	28.	Sentinel Printing Co., printing for library,	6 50

June	25.	Allison & Borley, insurance on Wheeler house,	\$ 2 25
	25.	E. H. Merriam, wood for hall,	2 00
	25.	Derby & Miller, oil for hall,	1 86
July	30.	W. C. Merrietta, repairing bell,	1 75
	30.	Lester Bolton, putting wood in shed,	3 00
	30.	Westminster Water Co , trough and cistern,	21 15
Aug.	50.	H. G. Partridge, pump near hotel,	10 20
	27.	J. F. Chaffin, tuning piano,	3 00
	27.	A. Merriam Est., stamped envelopes, etc.,	12 15
Sept.	27.	Sentinel Printing Co., printing posters,	1 00
	27.	Adams & Giles, repairs on scraper,	2 80
	27.	Derby & Miller, oil for hall and street,	3 52
	24.	J. Walter Davis, tile pipe,	2 34
	24.	H. A. Turner, services on liquor cases,	55 78
Oct.	24.	Mary Belle Hager, librarian,	25 00
	24.	Geo. H. Stockwell, care street lamps,	5 00
	29.	J. F. Wood, assessors' books,	10 00
Nov.	29.	C. F. Snow, team for soldiers,	1 75
	26.	A. E. Mossman, returning births,	1 25
	26.	E. P. Miller, inspection of meat,	13 05
	26.	Gardner News Co., printing voting list,	8 50
	26.	S. F. Lamb, repairing tools,	5 40
Dec.	26.	E. H. Merriam, wood for hall,	2 00
	31.	F. A. Curtis, water tub,	2 00
	31.	Wm. Mayo, painting guide board,	2 50
Feb.	10.	E. P. Miller, inspecting meat,	8 10
	10.	C. L. Mansur, care of hall,	72 00
	10.	G. W. Bruce, oil and nails,	2 08
	10.	Derby & Miller, sundries,	16 73
	10.	S. K. Brown, care water tub 2 years,	4 00
	10.	Kenyon News Co., books for library,	26 70
	11.	A. Merriam Est., sundry items,	8 25
	11.	A. E. Mossman, medical examination,	15 00
	11.	Hobart Raymond, expense to Holden,	13 19
	11.	Hobart Raymond, returning deaths,	7 00
	11.	H. J. Partridge, expense to Holden,	3 61
	11.	M. D. Whitney, inspecting animals,	20 25
	11.	Baptist Society, care of town clock,	20 00
	11.	C. E. Barron, insurance on No. 2 school house,	10 68
	11.	C. F. Giles, sundry items,	12 76
	11.	C. F. Giles, sundry items,	15 60
	11.	C. F. Giles, repairing door,	1 00
	11.	Sentinel Printing Co., printing petitions,	13 54
	11.	Norcross & Baker, legal counsel,	7 00

 \$968 05

1898. STATE HIGHWAY.

Nov. 26.	C. H. Kelliher, work on 1897 layout,	\$ 125 00
Dec. 31.	C. H. Kelliher, work on 1897 layout,	91 74
Jan. 10.	A. H. Proctor, work on 1897 layout,	41 10
1899.		
Feb. 10.	Asa Goddard, work on 1897 layout,	16 50
		<hr/>
		\$ 274 34

1898. CREDIT.

Dec. 5.	By check from State Treasurer,	\$216 74
1899.		
Jan. 5.	By check from State Treasurer,	57 60
		<hr/>
		\$274 34

RECAPITULATION.

Town officers,	\$ 644 19
Schools,	4,758 13
Indoor poor at Holden,	285 18
Outside poor,	785 02
Soldier's family aid,	135 78
Highway repairs and bridges,	1,518 14
Opening winter roads,	932 38
Fire department,	360 53
Cemetery commission,	45 60
Sewer expense,	88 72
State aid,	696 00
Military aid,	24 00
Miscellaneous,	968 05
State highway,	274 34
Whitney road,	100 80
	<hr/>
Total amount of 314 orders drawn,	\$11,616 86

LIST OF JURORS

As revised by the Selectmen Feb. 11, 1899.

John P. Roper,
Hobart Raymond,

Frank W. Fenno,
Charles C. Dawley,

Adin F. Baker,
Charles H. Smith,
Horace E. Davis,
Joseph L. Raymond,
Charles F. Giles,
Stephen F. Lamb,
Edgar E. Fenno,
Theodore S. Wood,
Frank A. Merriam,

Ernest J. Sawin,
Cyrus T. Miller,
John F. Sawin,
Frank W. Derby,
Melville H. Warner,
Louie S. Miller,
John Minott,
Arno E. Hurd,
Albert Minott.

The Selectmen recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year :

Schools, including Committee service,	\$3,800 00
Highway department,	2,500 00
Public charities,	1,000 00
Town officers, other than School Com ,	650 00
Fire department,	300 00
Memorial Day and care of monument grounds,	55 00
Cemeteries,	75 00
Care of tower clock,	20 00
Soldiers' families,	100 00
Payment of debt, miscellaneous and contingent	
expense,	1,000 00
Military aid,	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$9,700 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. D. SIMONDS,
E. H. MERRIAM,

Selectmen Town of Westminster.

Feb. 14, 1899.

Examined all book accounts, bills, orders and receipts of the town of Westminster for the year ending Feb. 11, 1899, and find the same correct and showing faithful work on the part of the officers.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL C. MILES, }
EDGAR E. FENNO, } *Auditors.*

Report of Superintendent of Highways.

To the Citizens of Westminster :

I have carried on the work in the Highway Department through the year with the view of keeping within the appropriation, but owing to the severe snow storm the latter part of November which cost about four hundred dollars to open for travel, has exceeded the allowance. Considerable new guard rail has been erected, and so far as I know, guide boards are up in all necessary places. I have newly planked several bridges and made other repairs. Following is the detailed account of money expended :

HIGHWAY REPAIRS.

Including bridges, railing and guide boards.

March 26.	A. J. Bolton and others,	\$ 11 40
April 30.	S. L. Bolton,	20 80
30.	Alton Battles,	9 00
30.	W. H. Waterhouse,	45 45
30.	L. O. Robinson,	44 20
30.	Porter F. Page,	15 30
30.	A. S. North,	145 12
30.	A. E. Smith,	17 00
30.	Hiram Ray,	43 57
30.	A. J. Bolton and others,	104 75
30.	A. H. Proctor,	32 50
30.	Warren LeGeyt,	60 50
May 28.	W. H. Waterhouse,	193 60
28.	Warren LeGeyt,	8 25
28.	A. J. Bolton and others,	37 23
28.	S. L. Bolton,	52 65
28.	J. C. Goodridge,	43 75
28.	Wm. Eager,	9 00

June	25.	A. H. Proctor,	\$44 45
	25.	A. J. Bolton and others,	22 49
	25.	Judson Foster,	6 50
	25.	J. C. Goodridge,	3 50
	25.	Warren LeGeyt,	5 50
July	30.	A. J. Bolton and others,	21 32
Aug.	27.	A. J. Bolton and others,	16 24
	27.	A. Merriam Est.,	17 66
	27.	D. W. Hill,	1 75
	27.	S. L. Bolton,	16 27
	27.	John Minott,	5 15
	27.	W. H. Waterhouse,	37 50
Sept.	24.	E. H. Merriam,	21 93
	24.	A. H. Proctor,	8 00
Oct.	29.	A. E. Smith,	13 50
	29.	C. M. Miller,	22 75
	29.	E. H. Merriam,	23 92
	29.	A. S. North,	97 25
	29.	W. H. Waterhouse,	22 50
	29.	A. J. Bolton and others,	49 62
	29.	J. C. Goodridge,	5 25
	29.	A. H. Proctor,	22 25
Nov.	26.	Judson Foster,	9 50
	26.	Alton Battles,	3 00
	26.	J. C. Goodridge,	3 50
	26.	A. J. Bolton and others,	14 25
	26.	Hiram Ray,	14 47
	26.	A. S. North,	58 50
	26.	A. E. Smith,	32 55
			<hr/>
			\$1,518 14

OPENING WINTER ROADS.

Mar.	26.	Alton Battles,	\$ 3 98
	26.	C. M. Miller,	16 25
	26.	M. M. Newton,	13 28
	26.	C. F. Snow,	4 50
	26.	Judson Foster,	12 85
	26.	J. C. Goodridge,	16 45
	26.	S. L. Bolton,	35 75
	26.	A. S. North,	52 38
	26.	A. E. and E. S. Smith,	15 25

	26.	W. H. Waterhouse,	\$12 85
	26.	C. F. Knowler,	13 12
	26.	R. J. Lavers,	11 27
	26.	L. Sherry,	98
April	30.	E. H. Merriam,	11 00
	30.	Wm Vieweg,	2 10
	30.	Albert Howard,	7 81
May	4.	T. S. Wood,	12 09
Aug.	27.	A. Merriam Est.,	10 50
Oct.	29.	Levi Jackson,	1 50
Dec.	31.	S. L. Bolton,	44 53
	31.	G. M. Davis,	5 60
	31.	Judson Foster,	13 98
	31.	C. M. Miller,	27 95
	31.	John Minott,	25 51
	31.	W. H. Waterhouse,	18 80
	31.	A. E. Smith,	35 40
	31.	R. J. Lavers,	43 53
	31.	Charles Gay,	3 75
	31.	J. C. Goodridge,	34 42
	31.	M. M. Newton,	18 62
	31.	C. R. Baker,	4 75
	31.	E. D. Gussman,	4 80
	31.	C. V. Earle,	1 13
	31.	A. H. Proctor,	27 85
	31.	C. F. Snow,	14 35
	31.	S. H. Sprague,	14 85
	31.	A. J. Bolton and others,	15 00
	31.	E. H. Merriam,	18 70
	31.	Albert Howard,	7 95
	31.	L. O. Robinson,	26 10
	31.	C. F. Knowler,	22 31
	31.	Milo S. Harrington,	1 95
1899.			
Jan.	28.	Judson Foster,	4 95
	28.	C. F. Knowler,	4 30
	28.	S. L. Bolton,	8 14
	28.	C. M. Miller,	7 00
	28.	E. C. Damon,	2 05
	28.	A. S. North,	16 05
	28.	R. J. Lavers,	5 70

Feb.	10.	G. H. Harris,	\$11 25
	10.	E. H. Merriam,	1 75
	10.	Josiah Mains,	1 80
	10.	T. S. Wood,	14 85
	10.	J. C. Goodridge,	24 05
	11.	A. Merriam Est.,	58 43
	11.	Alton Battles,	3 50
	11.	M. D. Whitney,	6 00
	11.	Hiram Ray,	26 58
	11.	C. M. Miller,	15 60
	11.	C. F. Knower,	7 14
	11.	W. H. Waterhouse,	13 45
	11.	R. J. Lavers,	14 05

		\$ 932 38
Highway repairs brought forward,		1,518 14

Total expenditure,	\$2,450 52
Appropriation,	2,000 00

Amount overdrawn,	\$450 52
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A. J. BOLTON,

Superintendent of Highways.

Report of Overseers of Poor.

Support of poor at Holden for the year ending Jan.

31, 1899,

\$285 18

(For details see report of Holden Poor Farm Association.)

OUTSIDE POOR.

Allen A. Barnes:		
Aid rendered,		52 00
Sarah Blake:		
Aid rendered,		13 94
Mrs. G. S. Beaman:		
Aid rendered,		75 84
James Coulter:		
Aid rendered,		11 12
Amos M. Cutler and wife,		
Aid rendered,		156 00
Obed Freeman and wife:		
Groceries and provisions,	\$69 70	
Wood,	31 50	
Medical attendance,	9 00	
	<hr/>	110 20
Simon Lashua:		
Groceries and provisions,	\$18 87	
Shoes,	4 10	
	<hr/>	22 97
Patrick C. May:		
Board and nursing,	\$20 00	
Medical attendance,	8 00	
	<hr/>	28 00
William Nichols:		
Groceries,	\$ 6 06	
Medical attendance,	2 50	
	<hr/>	8 56
Mrs. Marie Roseberry:		
Groceries,	\$12 50	
Medical attendance,	12 00	
	<hr/>	24 50

Mrs. Celia Marsh, daughter and granddaughter:

Groceries,	\$9 00
Fuel,	5 50

\$14 50

Edward Fosdick:

Aid rendered,	3 99
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City of Fitchburg:

Aid rendered Eugene Mandville and family,	3 63
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City of Newton:

Aid rendered Sarah Rugg and family,	57 75
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Town of Gardner:

Aid rendered Mary J. Seaver and son,	134 52
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Tramps:

Keeping 249 tramps, 25 cents each,	\$62 25
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Fuel for same,	4 25
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Medical attendance,	1 00
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67 50

\$785 02

Received from Hubbardston, account of P. C.

May,	\$28 00
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Received from Maynard, account James Coulter, 11 12

Received from Methuen, account Marie

Roseberry,	24 50
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Due from State, account State Paupers,	33 46
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97 08

Net expense of outside poor,

\$687 94

Net expense of indoor poor,

285 18

Total expense of poor,

\$973 12

HOBART RAYMOND,	} Overseers of Poor.
H. J. PARTRIDGE,	
F. W. DERBY,	

Examined and approved, Feb. 13, 1899.

DANIEL C. MILES,	} Auditors.
EDGAR E. FENNO,	

Ninth Annual Report of the Holden Poor Farm Association

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1899.

INMATES RECEIVING SUPPORT.

Name.	Age.	Admitted.	No. Ds.
Lizzie Kenny,	42 years,	Holden, April 1, '90, continues	365
Nathum S. Newton,	68 years,	Holden, Dec. 24, '91, continues	365
Winfred Durdeen,	49 years,	Holden, June 22, '97, continues	365
Charles Price,	75 years,	Holden, May 17, '98, continues	260
Newton Marshall,	58 years,	Holden, Jan. 15, '98, continues	17
Mary Maynard,	34 years,	Holden, Dec. 16, '97, left Feb. 11,	11
Martha Parker,	60 years,	Holden, Apr. 1, '90, removed to Tewksbury Nov. 1,	273
George Hall,	51 years,	Holden, March 31, '97, removed to Tewksbury, Nov. 1,	273
			<u>1,929</u>
David Rice,	80 years,	Hubbardston, April 1, '90, continues	365
Nancy Boynton,	61 years,	Hubbardston, April 1, '90, re- moved to Tewksbury Jan. 9,	343
Albert Wheeler,	67 years,	Hubbardston, March 20, '96, died Nov. 7,	277
John Wilson,	63 years,	Hubbardston, Sept. 22, '96, left May 19,	108
Henry Clark,	20 years,	Hubbardston, May 18, '97, left Jan. 5, away 34 days,	305
			<u>1,398</u>
Eunice Walker,	73 years,	Oakham, April 1, '90, continues	365
Lavina B. Field,	74 years,	Oakham, Oct. 31, '94, continues	365
			<u>730</u>

Name.	Age.	Admitted.	No. Ds.
Carrie Snow, 44 years, Paxton,		April 10, '96, continues	365
Elijah C. Foster, 81 years, Phillipston,		April 30, '96, re- moved to Tewksbury Oct. 20,	242
Charles Dunton, 80 years, Phillipston,		April 30, '96, re- moved to Tewksbury, Oct. 20,	242
			<hr/> 484
Elizabeth Demond, 79 years, Rutland,		May 6, '95, continues	365
Rosa Roen, 61 years, Rutland,		April 26, '97, continues	365
John Kelly, 38 years, Rutland,		Nov. 15, '98, continues	78
John Q. Adams, 49 years, Rutland,		Jan. 6, '98, left Mar. 24,	52
Geo. W. Hodgkins, 68 years, Rutland,		June 14, '97, d. Oct. 1,	243
			<hr/> 1,103
Adeline Eager, 58 years, Westminster,		April 1, '92, continues	365
Margaret Cronin, 53 years, Westminster,		April 1, '92, continues	365
Sarah Blake, 60 years, Westminster,		May 23, '98, continues	253
John Brady, 75 years, Westminster,		Dec. 1, '98, left Dec. 15,	15
			<hr/> 998

Total number of inmates, 27; died 2.

Removed to Tewksbury, 5; discharged 5; remaining 15.

Total days board furnished 7,007, or 1,001 weeks.

Average weekly number, 19 1/5.

Miss Lois Brown continues to act as nurse for her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Demond of Rutland. Nahum S. Newton, a soldier and pensioner of the war of the rebellion, continues to make his home in this institution, Holden receiving compensation for his support. By the provisions of Sec. 3, Chap. 425, Acts of 1898, the support of seven of our wards was transferred to the State, five of them as above stated have been removed to the State Alms House at Tewksbury, the others, Eunice Walker and Lavina B. Field of Oakham, remain with us by preference of friends who have paid their board since Nov. 18.

The receipts and expenditures are as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Milk,	\$1,248 14
Calves,	23 75
Stock,	145 00

Pork,	34 29
Eggs,	43 95
Work off farm,	22 89
Board and sundries,	34 36

Total,	<u>\$1,552 38</u>
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EXPENDITURES.

Warden and matron's salary,	\$595 86
Inside labor,	156 62
Outside labor,	102 24
Grain,	612 04
Groceries,	394 51
Meat,	188 72
Flour,	86 40
Bread and pastry,	71 56
Fish,	54 07
Dry goods,	73 42
Stock,	298 00
Tools and seeds,	85 51
Boots and shoes,	32 45
Medical attendance and medicine,	65 98
Hardware,	20 02
Furniture,	14 35
Blacksmithing,	26 02
Ice,	16 66
Tobacco and snuff,	16 53
Fertilizer,	51 00
Miscellaneous,	106 81
Rent,	325 00
Interest,	120 99
Wood,	40 00

Total,	<u>\$3,554 76</u>
Deducting receipts,	<u>1,552 38</u>

Balance net expense,	\$2,002 38
Cost per week for each inmate,	2 00

The net expense to each town is as follows:

Holden,	\$551 24
Hubbardston,	399 50
Oakham,	208 64
Paxton,	104 32
Phillipston,	138 30
Rutland,	315 20
Westminster,	285 18

\$2,002 38

The following table gives annual condition since the association was organized:

	Number of Inmates.	Weekly average	Total No. Weeks.	Cost per week.
First year,	12	$7\frac{7}{8}$	$377\frac{5}{7}$	\$2 875
Second year,	16	$11\frac{7}{8}$	586	2 243
Third year,	26	$21\frac{2}{3}$	1142	1 959
*Fourth year,	30	$22\frac{37}{306}$	967	2 232
Fifth year,	30	18.89	$982\frac{2}{7}$	2 545
Sixth year,	36	$18\frac{1}{3}$	984	2 30
Seventh year,	30	$19\frac{1}{3}$	1032	2 138
Eighth year,	30	$19\frac{2}{3}$	$1022\frac{5}{7}$	1 829
Ninth year,	27	$19\frac{1}{3}$	1001	2 00

The inmates have generally enjoyed good health during the past year, only two being removed by death. The reduction of the number of inmates caused by the new law above referred to, may make it desirable to add other towns to the association, as the cost per capita is reduced by keeping the number up to the maximum which can be properly cared for. The income is the largest since our organization, \$84.80 each from a herd of fifteen cows besides home consumption, is certainly a creditable record. Those interested in the well-being of the inmates and the success of the institution, will be pleased to learn that the present warden and matron have been secured for another year.

The above report is respectfully submitted by

Hobart Raymond,
Jesse Allen,
F. T. Holt,
John Adams,
H. H. Pike,
D. Webster Baker,
H. A. Kennen,

Westminster, President.
Oakham, Secretary.
Holden, Treasurer.
Hubbardston.
Paxton.
Phillipston.
Rutland.

* 10 months.

Board of Management.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

To the Selectmen of Westminster:

GENTLEMEN:—In behalf of the Board of Engineers, I present this annual report of the Fire Department of the town of Westminster for the year ending February 11, 1899.

On April 23, an alarm of fire was sounded which proved to be a brush fire on the land of Mrs. Stillman Eaton, very little damage being done.

July 19 the house and barn of A. H. Proctor was struck by lightning and totally destroyed with contents, consisting of several tons of hay, and stock, tools, etc. Loss estimated at \$1,800; insured for \$1,500.

The Board of Engineers were appointed by the Selectmen Oct. 3, 1898. On the evening of the above date, an alarm of fire was given for the fire on the Divoll place which was totally destroyed. Loss \$800. Dawley and Miller of the Engineers were present at the fire. All was destroyed before help arrived.

On the evening of Nov. 14, an alarm of fire was given, calling the company to the fire of J. H. Strang's barn which was totally destroyed with contents. Loss estimated about \$700.

On the evening of Oct. 8, 1898, the Engineers formed a company of forty-four men of the following names:

C. T. Miller,
F. W. Derby,
Henry E. Nichols,
H. L. Smith,
C. V. Earl,
C. W. Miller,
G. C. Miller,
Chester Stockwell,
Wesley Young,
B. C. Dawley,
L. A. Baker,
Frank Eaton,
E. J. Sawin,
J. Goodrich,

A. E. Ham,
F. E. Miller,
W. H. Stockwell,
Leon Eaton,
E. D. Gussman,
L. F. Smith,
C. F. Giles,
F. E. Kielty,
Olaf Anderson,
D. W. Saunders,
H. A. Shepard,
C. H. Mansur,
E. C. Mansur,
Levi Jackson,

F. J. Ray,
 F. E. Merriam,
 F. A. Goodrich,
 F. M. Sawyer,
 Frank Adams,
 C. L. Mansur,

C. C. Dawley,
 Chas. Haskins,
 E. R. Miller,
 Will Stanbridge,
 G. W. Snow,
 H. W. Miller,

E. E. Fenno.

EXPENDITURES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PAST YEAR FOR 60 MEN.

Paid 60 engine men,	\$300 00
F. E. Kelty, care of engine,	7 50
Fire engineers,	25 00
H. N. Derby, care of engine,	4 60
Team to fire,	3 00
Team to Proctor's fire,	5 60
Repairs on engine,	3 78
Drawing engine to fire,	5 00
Watching fire,	1 60
Repairing suction hose,	2 70
Lamp for engine house,	1 75
	<hr/>
	\$360 53

The Engine House engines and equipments are in good condition. The Engineers recommend the disposing of one of the small engines as there is only one company to man them. The Engineers recommend an appropriation for 45

men at \$5.00,	\$225 00
5 Engineers at \$5.00,	25 00
Miscellaneous,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$300 00

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. DAWLEY, Chief Engineer.
 L. S. MILLER, First Assistant.
 F. H. BATTLES, Second Assistant.
 S. F. LAMB, Third Assistant.
 E. H. MERRIAM, Clerk.

Examined and approved Feb. 13, 1899.

D. C. MILES, }
 EDGAR E. FENNO, } *Auditing Com.*

REPORT OF CEMETERY COMMISSION.

To the Selectmen of Westminster :

GENTLEMEN :—The Cemetery Commissioners herewith submit the report of their transactions during the past year. The Cemetery Commissioners have expended the sum of \$45.60 for the mowing of the grass and the righting-up of the grave stones. Those remaining to be righted are those which have been set in either marble or granite sockets, and an expert in marble or granite must be employed in order to have the work properly done. Some of the stones lie on the ground, others are loose and leaning badly. The town has received during the past year for the cemetery the following sum, viz : By the bequest of Artemus Merriam, the sum of \$150.00, the interest of which is to be annually expended in keeping two lots in repair. By the sale of one lot to Luman Carter, \$5.00 ; by the sale of grass, \$3.00. Total amount received, \$158.00. The amount now held in trust by the town, the interest of which is to be expended in keeping the lots in good repair, is \$400.00. We believe it is for the interest of the town to encourage bequests for this purpose by faithfully complying with the wishes of the donors, most of whom have passed away and now have no voice in the disposal of their bequests. Our expenditures hitherto have been limited to the cutting of the grass and the righting-up of the grave stones. The isolated location of our cemetery to a large degree, at least, has exempted it from unfavorable comparison with those of other towns. The prospect of the construction on its northern limit, which, if built, of an electric street railway will change its isolation into one of publicity. If we are to keep abreast of the times in regard to cemetery improvements, a larger appropriation than usual will be required.

The construction of a street railway through the town up the old turnpike and the Worcester road will, we think, compel the abandonment of this route by funeral processions in order to avoid accidents and other annoyances and the adoption of the State highway and the Leominster road instead. If this is

done, we respectfully recommend that the road from the Leominster road to the Eastern gate of the cemetery, some four or five rods in length, be widened in season to have the crossing paved at the railroad crossing.

The Commissioners would respectfully recommend that an appropriation of seventy-five dollars be made by the town for the purpose of mowing the grass and filling up the depressions where they occur in the burial lots, and to finish the righting-up of the remaining gravestones.

An itemized account of the expenditures of the Cemetery Commissioners is herewith submitted:

W. R. Stanbridge, cutting grass,	\$15 00
William Bell, cutting grass,	15 00
Stillman Whitney, righting-up grave stones,	2 40
Harvey S. Pierce, cutting grass,	6 60
Hobart Raymond, 44 hours' work,	6 60
	<hr/>
	\$45 60

Respectfully submitted,

AMOS B. HOLDEN, }
 HOBART RAYMOND, }
 HARVEY S. PIERCE, }

Cemetery Commissioners.

Library Report.

Notwithstanding the removal from town of several families of readers, the circulation of the library does not seem to decrease. This is due largely to the increased number of books read by young people of school age. Since reading and taking tests upon, a certain number of books became a part of each term's work in all the upper grades. Great effort is made by the Trustees to select such books as shall be both useful and acceptable to these younger patrons, as well as to make a satisfactory selection for the elder readers. About one hundred and eighty volumes were added to the library this year.

The number of magazines taken is the same as for several years, one change having been made, substituting McClure's for the Arena. Several weekly and monthly papers are sent gratuitously to the library, some by their publishers, others by the local W. C. T. U. Noticeable among these are the Paradise of the Pacific, which has been sent monthly from Honolulu, and the Union Signal and Woman's Journal.

It became necessary to have more shelf room and another book case was added. This will accommodate the books for another year, although it subtracts correspondingly from the floor space which is exceedingly crowded when several patrons happen to be waiting for books at the same time.

Among the public documents received from the State this year are some of more than unusual interest, especially a copy of the famous Bradford manuscript, or Log Book of the Mayflower and the history of the Fifteenth Regiment.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Allowed by Town,	\$268 23	
Received for catalogues, fines, etc.,	9 90	
	<hr/>	\$278 13

EXPENDITURES.

Books,	\$146 92	
Magazines,	26 70	
Librarian's salary,	50 00	
Work and repairs on books,	34 23	
Binding books and magazines,	17 25	
Printing,	6 50	
Express,	5 45	
Incidentals,	1 42	
	<hr/>	\$288 47
Overdrawn,		<hr/> \$10 34

MRS. S. C. WARNER,	}	<i>Library</i>
MRS. A. R. HAGER,		
MRS. HELEN L. BRUCE,		<i>Trustees.</i>
A. J. BOLTON,		
HOBART RAYMOND,		
CHARLES F. GILES,		

Examined and approved Feb. 13, 1899.

DANIEL C. MILES,	}	<i>Auditors.</i>
EDGAR E. FENNO,		

Tax Collector's Report.

Tax of 1898.

Tax on polls, personal and real estate,		\$10,538 63
Collected on taxes to date,	\$8,518 11	
Discount allowed to Oct. 1,	449 56	
Amount abated,	74 58	
	<hr/>	\$9,042 25
Uncollected,		\$1,496 38
Cash received on tax principal,	\$8,518 11	
Cash received for interest,	10 09	
	<hr/>	\$8,528 20
Cash paid to Town Treasurer,		\$8,528 20

Respectfully submitted,

L. S. MILLER, *Collector.*

Treasurer's Report.

Received:—

Cash on hand at last report,	\$2,301 14
On account State highway,	344 37
Town of Princeton, tuition,	38 50
" Gardner, "	3 85
" Hubbardston, aid to P. C. May,	28 00
" Methuen, aid to Marie Roseberry,	86 77
" Maynard, aid to J. Coulter,	11 12
Burial of State pauper,	30 00
Support " "	3 00
Sale of Town farm, part payment,	1,400 00
Police court fines,	119 90
Slaughter-house license, E. B. Lynde,	1 00
Bowling alley " W. C. Cotton,	2 00
Pool table " J. C. Stone,	2 00
Refunded by "Always Ready" engine company,	
H. N. Derby, treasurer,	62 00
Inspections of animals,	95 63
Books purchased through the Town Library Com-	
mittee by the School Committee and others,	22 95
Gardner Savings Bank, temporary loan,	1,500 00
Sale of the "Wheeler place,"	215 00
Town of Princeton, aid to Flavel Rice,	15 00
Corporation tax,	565 57
National Bank tax,	1,047 04
Dog tax, (.939 per cent. of),	202 26
State aid, chap. 301, acts 1889,	624 00
Income from Massachusetts school fund,	394 43
On account Superintendent of Schools,	500 00
Elizabeth W. Howard, sewer assessment,	22 18
Sarah E. Drury, sewer assessment,	22 18
Auctioneer's license, C. H. Smith,	2 00
Rent of Town hall,	79 00
Bequest from the will of Artemus Merriam for	
care of cemetery lots,	150 00
Luman Carter, cemetery lot,	5 00
Grass sold, cemetery,	3 00

Histories sold by Town Clerk,	\$ 40 00
Rebate of insurance premium on account of the Wheeler house sold,	2 63
From Library table,	3 33
Interest from Westminster National Bank,	54 81
Tax of 1894,	18 50
Tax of 1895,	49 45
Tax of 1896,	305 36
Tax of 1897,	624 82
Tax of 1898,	8,528 20
	<hr/>
	\$19,525 99

Paid:—

Sarah E. Drury, interest,	\$ 48 00
Mary E. Hill, “	68 76
Lenora D. Baker, “	24 00
Myra E. Ellis, “	60 00
Oliver M. Merriam, “	30 00
Harriet Gaut, “	34 20
Sarah A. Upton, “	6 70
“ “ principal,	65 00
Gardner Savings Bank, note and interest,	1,515 17
County tax,	858 00
State tax,	405 00
Myra E. Ellis, note and interest,	1,007 00
Mary E. Hill, notes and interest,	1,193 69
Orders from Selectmen,	11,616 86
Balance on hand in Bank,	2,533 61
	<hr/>
	\$19,525 99

CASH RESOURCES.

Due for State aid, .	\$756 00
For military aid,	12 00
On account of Superintendent of Schools,	400 00
For rent of Town hall,	21 00
For inspection of animals,	22 20
From Albert Howard, sewer assessment,	44 36
From estate of Amos Robinson for school building,	10 00
From Town of Stoneham, aid to D. L. Hall,	25 75
From Town of Princeton, tuition,	45 44
From Town of Gardner, “	18 46
From State on account State paupers,	33 46

33 Town histories on hand,	\$ 66 00
Mortgage note of Lizzie E. Atwood,	600 00
Uncollected tax of 1889,	2 90
" " 1896,	189 69
" " 1897,	562 37
" " 1898,	1,496 38
Cash on hand in Bank,	2,533 61
	<hr/>
	\$6,839 62

LIABILITIES.

Lenora D. Baker, note,	\$400 00
Sarah A. Upton, " "	85 00
Harriet Gaut, " "	684 00
Sarah E. Drury, " "	800 00
Oliver M. Merriam, 2 notes,	1,500 00
First Congregational Sunday school note,	75 00
Mary Ann Farnsworth cemetery lot fund,	50 00
Abigail K. Coleman and Almond Derby cemetery lot fund,	100 00
Mary E. Hood, Titus lot fund,	50 00
Joseph W. Estabrook, cemetery lot fund,	50 00
Artemus Merriam, cemetery lot fund,	150 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,944 00
Balance resources over liabilities,	2,895 62
Town debt February 10, 1898,	373 53
	<hr/>
Net gain for the year,	\$3,269 15

Of this net gain \$2,215.00, was, of course, owing to the sale of the Town farm and Wheeler place.

FRANK W. FENNO, *Treasurer.*

February 14, 1899.

Examined receipts, orders and bills paid for the year ending February 11, 1899, and find correct.

DANIEL C. MILES, }
EDGAR E. FENNO, } *Auditors.*

Auditor's Report.

FEBRUARY 11, 1899.

The books were closed Feb. 11, and the Auditors examination closed Feb. 14, 1899.

Having thoroughly and carefully examined all the books kept, orders drawn, receipts taken, present liabilities and resources, we find them kept neat and in good order and in such shape as to be easy of access in case of future reference.

We find the amount of taxes unpaid still larger than last year. We think the citizens and tax-payers should take notice of and see to it that our taxes are more promptly paid. There are two other small accounts that have been reported several times that should be collected.

We hereby report the amount of uncollected taxes as we find them in the books of the collector.

Taxes of 1889,	\$2 90
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TAXES OF 1896.

As reported Feb. 11, 1898,		\$481 54
Amount since abated,	\$ 15 76	
Amount since collected,	276 15	
Amount uncollected,	189 69	189 69
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$481 54	\$ 192 59

TAXES OF 1897.

As reported Feb. 11, 1898,		\$1,231 63
Amount since abated,	\$ 71 91	
Amount since collected,	597 34	
Amount uncollected,	562 37	562 37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,231 62	

TAXES OF 1898.

Taxes to collect,		\$10,538 63
Amount since abated,	\$ 74 58	
Amount discounted,	449 56	
Amount collected,	8,518 11	
Amount uncollected,	1,496 38	1,496 38
	<hr/>	
	\$10,538 63	

Total tax still uncollected,	<hr/>	\$2,251 34
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Respectfully,

DANIEL C. MILES,	} <i>Auditing Com.</i>
EDGAR E. FENNO,	

Report of School Committee.

Again we present to you our annual report giving you an account of the work we have done and the way we have expended the money the Town voted for educational purposes.

First, let us say the District formed by the three Towns, Sterling, Princeton and Westminster (is divided the appropriation, time, salary and State Gratuity) upon the basis of twenty-five schools, Sterling ten, Westminster ten, Princeton five. The Superintendent gives two days of the week to Sterling, two days to Westminster, one day to Princeton; so with the appropriation and the Gratuity given by the State, and the salary of Superintendent, two-fifths are each Sterling and Westminster's share and one-fifth Princeton's.

The vote last year if you remember, the appropriation for schools was thirty-five hundred dollars, and *not any of it* to be used for the salary of the Superintendent; this would be all right if, as in the other two Towns, you had voted the special appropriation. The statutes read, "Whenever the Chairman and Secretary of the joint committee *shall certify under oath* * * * * that the Towns unitedly have raised by taxation and appropriated a sum not less than seven hundred and fifty dollars for the support of a Superintendent of Schools, and that under the provisions of this act a Superintendent of Schools has been employed * * * * a warrant shall be drawn upon the Treasurer of the Commonwealth for the payment of one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars, * * * * which amount shall be paid for the salary of such Superintendent * * * on the basis of the sum appropriated."

A few days after the Town meeting, this paper which the State requires these Committees to make oath to in these Towns regarding the appropriation came, and of course while the others could make oath to this part we could not, the wording of the vote shut us out, and the District could not obtain the

gratuity of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, so a Town meeting was called, the matter stated and the appropriation of three hundred dollars was made. Our share of the Superintendent's salary was six hundred dollars and we received from State five hundred dollars.

The schools commenced as usual the first week in April, also the first week in April occurs the convention of the committees of this District. At that meeting, Superintendent Pinkham sent in his resignation and a committee of one from each Town was chosen to receive applications for the position and the meeting adjourned at the call of this committee. We met the first of May in Fitchburg on account of the nearness to the different routes of travel and we elected Mr. Albert L. Barbour of Cumberland, R. I., who would commence his duties with the beginning of the State year July 1st, and our relations with both of these Superintendents has been of the pleasantest character.

At the Town meeting the committee asked the Town to secure a driveway upon the side of the Centre School building nearest the village, as it would make it more convenient and less expensive in getting in the fuel and getting out the ashes. It was left by a vote of the Town in the hands of the School Committee. The owners of the land did not care to sell, but a lease of twelve feet of land from the highway to the rear of the school building was obtained from Mrs. George and Miss Dora Merriam which is recorded by the Town Clerk. After this was secured, it opened for use a corner of the school house basement which we have utilized for a bicycle room. There are from thirty to forty pupils who come to school on wheels in suitable weather, and the bicycle has come to stay and every school house like our Centre school building needs such a room.

The State School Board advises the closing of schools of less than ten pupils. The school in District No. 4 had four pupils in the spring term of '98, so the school was closed and the pupils transported, but upon petition of residents of the District stating that they had ten pupils who would attend, the house was opened and we were fortunate to secure the services of Miss Mary Dupee as teacher.

The school has been a great success, both in point of attendance and progress in studies, and we shall be happy to keep it open under the circumstances such as existed this last term

with the understanding that when there are less than eight pupils the school will be closed.

We have changed from Sheldon's Vertical writing book to Heath & Co's., the latter being in use in our State Normal schools and we judged it an improvement. There was no expense, as Heath & Co. took all the Sheldon books, giving us a book for every one taken, otherwise the books are the same price. We have changed the course of study for the Senior year (twelfth grade) from German to French, as one year in German would amount to very little being so incomplete, but one year in French would give them a good start so they could read understandingly any common French reading and the books were not more expensive; also some books for English literature class; these being all the new books called for, for this the first class in the twelfth grade in our High school. There were books to piece out where classes were larger and not books enough with supplementary reading and an exchange of Physical Geographies is all the change of books during the year.

There has been as usual during the year some changes in teachers, some resignations and some new teachers employed. We are sorry to lose our old friends, but we have had some good teachers come to fill their places.

We hope to retain all our teachers as we have enjoyed our associations with them very much. They have worked very hard and have from their own resources, as from the proceeds of school entertainments, tried to piece out in various ways the needs of the schools, realizing our appropriation was used with the utmost care to make it cover all it *must*.

Repairs are needed on several school buildings. Those in No. 7 and 8 must be shingled, and these two, with No. 4 school-house need painting. We think it would be good policy to keep the exterior of the buildings in Nos. 3 and 5 painted and good repair and in would be for the interest of the town.

Attention is called to the reports of the Superintendent and music teacher, also the Roll of Honor and our Financial Statement

EDWARD C. DAMON,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
FRANK A. MERRIAM,		
K. A. DELVA,		

School Committee's Financial Statement.

RESOURCES.

Appropriation by Town for schools,	\$3,800 00
Gratuity from State for Superintendent,	500 00
State Fund,	394 43
Tuition due from Town of Princeton,	45 44
Tuition due from Town of Gardner,	18 46
	<hr/>
	\$4,758 33

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries of teachers,	\$2,501 00
Salary of Superintendent,	600 00
Fuel,	264 66
Miscellaneous,	85 40
Salaries of Committee,	61 12
Transportation,	598 10
Music,	100 00
Books,	127 29
Supplies,	116 06
Janitors,	109 35
Tuition to Town of Ashburnham,	34 30
Appliances,	22 00
Repairs,	138 85
	<hr/>
	\$4,758 13
	<hr/>
	20

Resources,	\$4,758 33
Bills paid,	4,758 13
	<hr/>

Unexpended balance, 20

Feb. 14, 1899. Examined and approved,

DANIEL C. MILES, } *Auditing*
 EDGAR E. FENNO, } *Committee.*

ROLL OF HONOR.

HIGH SCHOOL.

SPRING TERM:

Mary Towle, George Merriam, Ethel Lavers.

FALL TERM:

Mary Towle, Ella Smith, George Merriam, Carl Black.

WINTER TERM not finished.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

SPRING TERM:

Amy Miller, Anna Kelty, Florence Baker, Alma Sawin,
Edna Battles, Robert Merriam.

FALL TERM:

Gertrude Stiles, Olive S. Marsh, Edna Quincy, Hattie
Towle, Nellie Lavers.

WINTER TERM not finished.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

SPRING TERM:

Lester Kelty Cyril Raymond, Maud Battles, Lora Eaton,
Walter Miller, Hubert Quincy.

FALL TERM:

Lester Kelty, Leon Miller, Cyril Raymond, Mildred Wood,
Maud Battles, Mattie Daisy, Lora Eaton, Arthur Eaton,
Cora Kelty, Hubert Quincy, George Cotton, Hayward
Gussman, Leon Stockwell, Gertrude Smith, Ralph Towle,
Grace Urban.

WINTER TERM:

Lester Kelty, Lois Mossman, Leo Tourjee, Mattie Daisy,
Hubert Quincy, Harold Strang, Ralph Towle.

YEAR:

Lester Kelty, Hubert Quincy, Ralph Towle.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

SPRING TERM:

Hervey Bell, Charles Kelty, Earl Stockwell, Herman Eaton,
Grace Stockwell, Leon Stockwell, Gertrude Smith,
Ralph Towle, Grace J. Miller, Grace E. Miller, Edmund
Kelty.

FALL TERM:

Grace E. Miller, Grace J. Miller, Ella J. Rose, Mildred
Daisy, Emma Kelty, Edmund Kelty.

WINTER TERM:

Albert Hall, Alice Lavers.

DISTRICT No. 2.

SPRING TERM:

Nina Newell, Sylvia E. Spaulding, Virginia Rosbury,
George Brunett.

FALL TERM:

Nina Newell, Sylvia E. Spaulding, Ernest M. Vieweg,
Bernard Conway, Martha L. Vieweg, Hattie E. Vieweg.

WINTER TERM:

Sylvia E. Spaulding, Bernard Conway.

YEAR:

Sylvia E. Spaulding.

DISTRICT No. 4.

WINTER TERM:

Nelson S. Greely.

DISTRICT No. 7.

SPRING TERM:

Addie L. Peeler, Bertha M. Waterhouse, Alvin E.
Estabrook.

FALL TERM:

Nellie L. Estabrook, Bruno Dietz, Bertha M. Waterhouse,
Alvin E. Estabrook.

WINTER TERM:

Bruno Dietz, Bertha M. Waterhouse.

YEAR:

Bertha M. Waterhouse.

DISTRICT No. 8.

WINTER TERM:

Florence Butler.

DISTRICT No. 10.

SPRING TERM:

Lewis Fisher.

WINTER TERM:

Mildred Young.

DISTRICT No. 12.

SPRING TERM:

Arthur Merriam, Roger Battles.

FALL TERM:

Nellie Johnson, Wolfred Curtis, Winnie Wilson, Herman Curtis, Florence Johnson.

WINTER TERM:

Wolfred Curtis, Henry Curtis.

No. of School	Terms	Teachers	Average Membership	Average Attendance	Per cent of Attendance	Cases of Tardiness	Tardiness per Pupil	Cases of Dismissals	Dismissals per Pupil	Length of Term in Weeks	Salary per Month.
High	1	Jessie L. Shepard	30.02	27.48	91.5	43	1 6	12	.5	12	\$60 00
	2	Jessie L. Shepard				81	2.4	21	.6	11	60 00
	3	Jessie L. Shepard*									60 00
Grammar	1	M E Coburn	36.62	35.19	96.	20	.5	6	.1	12	40 00
	2	M E Coburn				4	.1	14	.4	12	40 00
	3	M F. Coburn *									40 00
Inter- mediate	1	Lena B Reynolds	34.75	32.63	93.9	8	.3	13	.5	11	32 00
	2	Lena B Reynolds				5	.1	23	.6	11	36 00
	3	Lena B Reynolds				9	.2	9	.2	8	36 00
Primary	1	Charlotte E. Smith	28.29	25.74	91.	11	.3	4	.1	11	32 00
	2	Charlotte E. Smith				5	.2	1	.03	11	32 00
	3	Charlotte E. Smith				3	.1	0	0	8	32 00
Dist. 2	1	Carrie L. Minott	18.34	17.2	93.8	7	.3	19	1.9	11	32 00
	2	Carrie L. Minott				6	.4	13	.9	11	32 00
	3	Carrie L. Minott				0	.0	0	0	8	32 00
Dist. 4	3	Mary A. Dupee	10.	9 74	98.	8	.8	12	1.2	8	24 00
Dist. 7	1	Agnes W. Howe	12.31	10 37	83.8	11	.8	8	.6	11	28 00
	2	Agnes W. Mansur				4	3	12	.9	11	28 00
	3	Agnes W. Mansur				3	4	2	.2	8	28 00
Dist. 8	1	Ina S. Minott	12 37	11.	89.	13	1.	1	.08	11	24 00
	2	Ina S. Minott				13	1.	8	.6	11	28 00
	3	Ina S. Minott				2	.2	1	.09	8	28 00
Dist. 10	1	Mabel Humphrey	16.48	14.20	86.2	15	.7	16	.8	11	28 00
	2	Mary L. Call				10	.6	15	.9	11	28 00
	3	Mary L. Call				6	6	3	.3	8	28 00
Dist. 12	1	Emma S. Lavers	15.45	14.33	92.8	31	2.	1	.07	11	
	2	Hattie A. Greenlaw				29	1.2	8	.3	11	
	3	Hattie A. Greenlaw				14	.9	9	.6	8	

*Term still in session.

Ninth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools.

TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, EDWARD C. DAMON, CHAIRMAN :—

I have the pleasure of submitting to you, and through you to the citizens of Westminster, my first annual report as Superintendent of Schools for this town.

STATISTICS.

Upon another page will be found detailed statistics of the attendance at the various schools, to which your attention is earnestly called. The school in district No. 4, which has been closed the greater part of the year, was opened at the commencement of the winter term, and the attendance, while not large, has been satisfactory to us and highly commendable for its regularity. There have been, of course, slight fluctuations in the attendance at all the schools but on the whole no very apparent decrease. Sickness and the difficulty of traveling have made the schools during our last term suffer to a considerable extent but the percentage of attendance for the year as a whole has been gratifying. It is to be hoped that none of our schools fall lower in point of numbers than at present as in a small school we cannot secure as good results as in the larger ones owing to the lack of incentives to ambition both for teacher and the pupil. The prerequisites of a good school are a good attendance and regularity in that attendance. Taken on the whole, in the latter respect the schools have made a creditable showing, much better, in fact, than the majority of towns similarly situated.

COURSE OF STUDY.

My first endeavor upon taking charge of the schools of Westminster was to make myself as well acquainted as possible with the course of study which is in use and the workings of the schools under this course of study. In this particular I

found much to be desired. A course of study, to be of practical value and reliability, should be just what is implied in its name,—a working model for the teachers' use, flexible in its provisions and sensible in its requirements.

A town the greater part of whose schools have but one teacher, in charge of a number of grades, would require a course of study very different from a town where but one grade is found in a room. The conditions, as will be at once recognized, are quite different and the manner in which they should be met will also be different.

Our course of study, while well adapted perhaps to schools which are closely graded, is scarcely practical enough for schools such as we have in Westminster and consequently from time to time as I have found it necessary, I have modified and altered some of its specifications, by giving oral directions to the teachers concerning certain sections of their work. One great difficulty which I have been trying to remedy is the lack of uniformity in the grades. For instance, as I found the schools, pupils who were ranked as belonging to one grade might be doing exactly the same work as pupils in the next higher or lower grades in another school. It has not been an easy task to bring the grades together and I have not yet succeeded in getting them all straightened out. I by no means would advocate or be understood as favoring a rigid graded system or one holding the children to a lock-step in their educational work, but uniformity is at least desirable. When all the grades are, however, once set upon a proper basis, it will mean much smoother and more systematic work. I have been paying considerable attention in particular to arithmetic as it is taught in our schools and two teacher's meetings have been devoted to this subject. Our aim has been to make our teaching in this branch as practical as possible and at the same time provide for a large amount of drill for the reasoning faculties. Mental arithmetic has been emphasized throughout the year as the most important side of the subject. More drill work can be obtained from mental than from written arithmetic and the fundamental principles can be brought out and impressed upon the minds of the pupils much more easily. Pupils need to be most thoroughly drilled upon those branches of numerical work which, as men and women, they are most likely to use.

The two crowning virtues to be looked for here are accuracy and rapidity; the first is handicapped seriously without the second; the second is entirely useless without the first.

Pupils should become experts, practically figure perfect in their ability to do the fundamental operations with whole numbers or their parts. If this is properly attended to during a child's early years in school, the practical application of these principles will then become an easy matter. Such sections of arithmetic as treat of foreign money, apothecaries' weight, etc., should go by the board. It is of infinitely greater importance that pupils should be able to compute floor and wall surfaces of rooms and make other common-sense measurements which they may be called upon to use so frequently. The results of our efforts in arithmetic will to a great extent depend upon the success with which we teach first principles and this work is, I believe, being satisfactorily done in practically all of our schools.

LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR.

In the department of Language and Grammar, I have found our schools to be particularly weak, more especially in the latter branch of the work.

The trouble was that the methods employed in teaching Language in the Primary and Intermediate grades have been carried too far and there had been no proper gradation of the work for the higher classes. The seventh and eighth grades were threshing over exactly the same straw as the third and fourth and there was nothing new to be extracted. The children were gaining in power of expression, but something more than that was requisite. For the last three years of a common school course it is generally considered desirable that classes should receive a very thorough drill in the essentials of technical grammar. Before that time, I do not think it advisable to begin a systematic drill along this line, but rather devote the time to securing facility of oral and written expression with a fair degree of skill.

The plan of doing away with the study of English grammar on its constructive side has been tried and has not proved a glittering success. There needs to be something tangible in the grammatical instruction, an orderly, logical arrangement and that can be supplied in the higher grades only through the study of the structure of the mother tongue.

It is absolutely necessary for work in Rhetoric and English Literature, not to mention the foreign languages that an adequate preparation should be made in the grammar grades and it was high time that we gave that fact due consideration. All our higher grades are now equipped with suitable text-books

for this work and it is my intention to have a material improvement in this branch before another report is issued. It ought not to be a difficult matter to remedy in future classes. In the lower grades the work in Language has been well developed and carried out and should give us a good foundation whereon to base higher instruction.

WRITING.

In writing, we have made some needed changes in method during the past year in the hopes of securing better results and the outcome has been very pleasing to me. Our town, of course, like nearly all others at the present time, has been teaching the vertical system of writing and has secured much better results than was possible with the slant system. Our system, however, had not given complete satisfaction to the teachers for some little time past and to me, in September, it seemed as though a change were desirable. As a consequence during the fall term, we exchanged the Sheldon System of Vertical Writing which we had been employing, for the Natural System of Vertical Writing and I think that it may be safely said that the change has been satisfactory to all alike.

Our writing is now much simpler and more uniform as respects the formation of the letters. We have been able to do away entirely with the complex system of spaces and half spaces as but two heights of letters are employed instead of the three in our former method. This not only makes the work neater, but tends to avoid confusion as well.

The greatest advantage which we have secured by this change of copy books is a better grading of the work. It is a well-known principle of hygiene and one which is familiar to teachers that the first movements of children are made by means of the large muscles, which are the earliest to be developed, while with added maturity come the co-ordination and bringing into play of the smaller muscles. We ought to do pay attention to this law in teaching pupils to write. It is a mistake to expect children to do minute work of any kind when they first come to school. All work, especially in writing should be planned in conformity with this law. The copies in penmanship should not be of the same size for pupils of the first and second grades as for pupils of the seventh and eighth. The copies in the system which we had been using were too small for any grade.

We want writing which will be bold, plain and simple to the extreme, free from all ornamentation and flourish, with a view only to legibility and rapidity. It seems to me desirable that children should learn to write without the assistance of guide lines and with their whole attention devoted to the form of the letters or words which they are to write. It is an idle and worthless task to prescribe to children the exact height to a fraction of an inch or to lay down rules for measuring the actual size of letters. It was not so many years ago that almost all children took their first lessons in writing from a tracing book, a slow process of drawing. Tracing books are now a thing of the past and the time is perhaps not far away when the spaced copy books also being done away with, we shall teach writing as writing unhampered by senseless restrictions and directions. The work of our schools now in writing is heartily to be praised and worth the attention of our citizens who are interested in school work.

HIGH SCHOOL.

A great deal that is good may be said concerning our high school, its work and its principal and it has been a pleasure to me to watch its progress. It is not a large school, but it is large in proportion to the size of the town while the result of its work in advancing the grade of education in the town and in opening broader opportunities for young people, cannot but contribute to the welfare of the community, present and future.

Before taking charge of the schools of this district last fall, I had occasion to give considerable time and thought to the course of study in use and the points wherein it might be bettered. From a considerable experience in high school teaching and supervision, I have seen the same defect appearing in a large number of instances, and that is the desire or perhaps tendency on the part of the small high school to go beyond its depth, to slavishly imitate the large city school and to revel in a multiplicity of short courses, thereby doing a number of things very superficially rather than a few things well. No doubt, it is often a matter of pride for a superintendent to make himself believe that his high schools fit for the colleges and the technical schools, even if none of the pupils desire to go, but is it not much better for the pupils, the schools and the public behind the schools when the supervisor takes the position as one of the articles of his creed that it is not the primary function of any high school, be it great or small, to fit for the

higher institutions of learning. The primary function of every high school is to prepare boys and girls for the duties of citizenship and right living. Large high schools must give considerable care and attention to their secondary function of college preparatory work, but with the small schools such as ours, this feature can be practically disregarded, as indeed it is. Our high school is not a feeder to a higher institution; it cannot be with its present equipment and it is in no way desirable that it should be.

Hon. Frank A. Hill, Secretary of our Board of Education, states the case exactly when he says "It is a great and needless burden that the small country high school with but one or two teachers cannot concentrate its energies upon some single course that shall contain those subjects which the vast majority of children must have and will not do without."

Now to speak of our own high school course of study: In view of the equipment and limitations of the school, it seemed to me to be decidedly top heavy. There was as great a variety of subjects to be taught as in a large city school with only a fraction of the amount of time. It must be remembered, too, that the length of our high school course is three years, instead of four, as is the case in larger schools.

It appeared desirable the more I knew of the conditions that this variety of work should be reduced to some extent and the remaining courses strengthened. This also seemed advisable to the principal and received the sanction of the school committee. The work of the school in mathematics has always been extensive and well drilled. Excellent work has also been done in English so far as the meagre amount of time would allow, although the insufficient preparation of the pupils in English Grammar in the grades below has been detrimental to a thorough course. Our three Latin classes have also done slow work for the same reason, but what work they have done has been well done. The amount of time devoted to history has been very limited, while the sciences were distributed through the course in three month slices.

Now, we have no laboratory whatever for work in science and no equipments worth mentioning, so that it seemed desirable to cut out some of this work and employ the time in a different channel. Chemistry, therefore, has not been taught at all this year, and instead of the smatterings of Geology and Zoology, we have introduced a strong course in Physical

Geography. None of the ninth grade chose to begin Latin this year which allowed us little additional time.

I hope before another year to be able to re-arrange the course in Rhetoric and Literature, making it more orderly, logical and extensive than it now is and it would be desirable to improve the course in History also. Then with our whole course solidified and made substantial, we should have a greater assurance that we were doing the best that could be done with our means. Our high school has done and is doing excellent work and I am sure that it can do much better. I should have much more pride in feeling that it was actively preparing our boys and girls for the business and pleasures of life, and that it was arousing and feeding strong intellectual activities, than in thinking that it was preparing a hypothetical pupil for a college or technical school. The first is, I believe, common sense; the second is what you will.

I commend this to your earnest thought and attention.

DRAWING.

Systematic work in drawing has been carried on at the Central school under the direction of Miss Gussman, and the results have been very creditable, both to pupils and teacher. There is no branch of common school work which lends itself more readily to arousing the healthy child interest aside from its very strong utilitarian value. There has been a remarkable improvement during the year in the quality of the drawing, and I am sure that the interest shown has re-acted favorably upon the other school work.

TEACHERS.

Comparatively few changes in teachers have been made during this year, the school at the Centre having retained the same corps for the past three terms. No doubt this has contributed a great deal to the successful work which has gone on in nearly every instance. With but two new teachers at the opening of the fall term, it was a very easy matter to get under way without any friction. There has been in all cases an intelligent and painstaking endeavor on their part to realize the best results from the means at hand, and there has also been the utmost harmony of co operation, which goes far toward making school work profitable.

Among the most recent additions to and revisions of the school laws is the following to which I call your attention:

“Every town and city shall maintain for at least thirty-two weeks in the year, a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of all the children who may legally attend a public school therein.”

By the conditions of the law as it stands at present, the school committee will find it necessary to keep all the schools, save the High and Grammar, in session an additional two weeks during the year, beginning with the spring term. This change will, I am sure, be a welcome one to parents and pupils and will be of great benefit to our schools.

In my work as supervisor, it has been my plan to visit all the schools as often as my time in this town would allow and to devote my whole attention to the observation of the work in the school room. I have tried to make my attitude that of a friend and helper to the teachers rather than that of the carping and fault-finding critic. Under ordinary circumstances, I plan to hold teacher's meetings twice each term for the consideration of such topics as appear to me most in need of our mutually understanding and for the presentation and solution of any difficulties which may have arisen in the course of the teachers' work.

The District Teachers' Institute I have not thought advisable to continue and I have made no move so to do.

From time to time each year, a number of Institutes and Conventions are held under State auspices in the neighboring cities and large towns which are not only easier of access than the other towns of this district are to our teachers, but are also of higher calibre and wider scope than a local affair could possibly be without entailing a considerable expense upon the town. It has seemed to me desirable that our teachers should attend these and the School Committee allows them to do so. This is no doubt the best arrangement that we could make.

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

No very radical changes have been made this year in our list of approved text books.

Our writing books have been exchanged as I have mentioned on a previous page. We have also practically completed the introduction of Metcalf's Grammars and Metcalf and Bright's language books, which were already partly in use and have filled our list of Frye's Elementary Geography. A number of supplementary reading books have also been bought during the year, mostly such as will correlate with the work in Geography

and History. In the High School, the pupils have at a common expense exchanged their music readers for copies of a more recent and advanced book.

The committee has introduced Whitney's French Grammar and French Reader and Tair's Physical Geography, together with a number of books for use in connection with English Literature.

We have had as a rule a plentiful supply of necessary working materials and equipments wherewith to do successful work. We have aimed in securing new books to obtain such as are of use and interest rather than merely attractive to the eye and we now have a very satisfactory list. The teachers have directed and advised outside reading in connection with the public library each term and have endeavored to assist the pupils in forming a taste for good wholesome literature with which our town library is so plentifully supplied.

In concluding my report I must express my pleasure at the harmony that has prevailed in school work during the year now soon to close. Both with teachers and committee, there has been a unanimity of aim and purpose. This is the main essential to successful work of any public nature, and it has been very agreeable to me to find these conditions prevailing. I am under obligations to the citizens for the kindly spirit in which I have been received, and I have to thank the committee for the many acts of kindness which I have experienced at their hands.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT L. BARBOUR.

MUSIC.

There is little that is new to give in this annual report of music, but we have been working in this branch as well as in many others for the last year.

I visited the schools of Westminster once in two weeks during the Spring and Fall terms of 1898. Special mention can hardly be made of any one school without doing the others injustice. Yet if I speak of any, I should say that South Westminster has at present a most interesting class, both for absolutely good attention and brightness.

A great deal might be said for the Centre schools, and whatever of praise has been given in the music report in years past, I can only repeat more earnestly at the closing of this year.

Hearty, loving co-operation on the part of teachers, pupils and special teacher can result in but one thing and that is success.

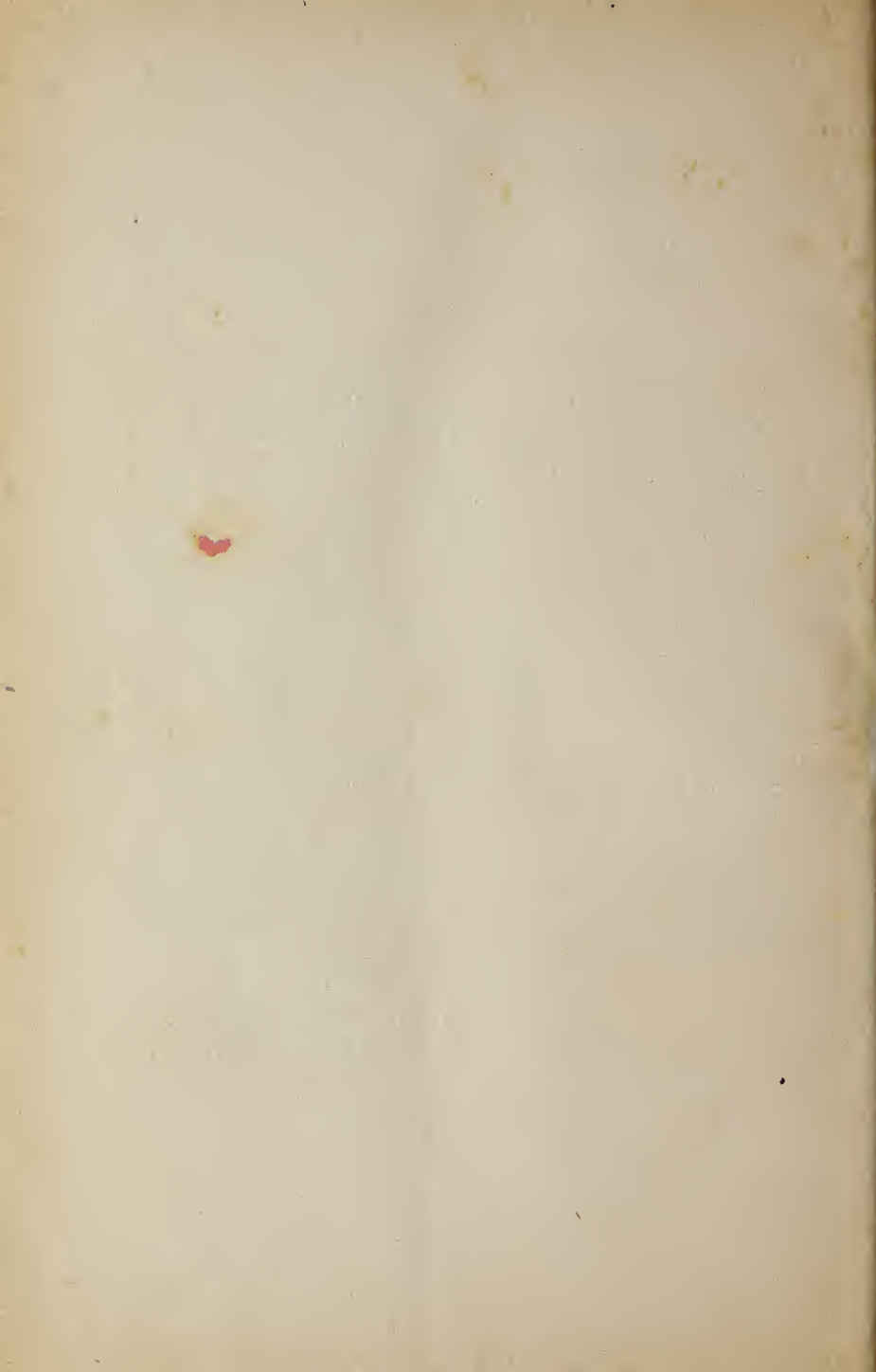
We have, during the last year, bought new singing books for the High School class, books which we believe to be the best for the purpose, and the parents and friends will undoubtedly receive pressing invitations in the near future to come together and hear what we can do with the new books.

Respectfully submitted,

MARIETTA HARRINGTON,

Special Teacher of Music in Princeton District.

Feb. 4, 1899.







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